

THE
THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

OR

ADVOCATE OF THE PRINCIPLES

WHICH GOVERN

THE THOMSONIAN SYSTEM OF MEDICAL PRACTICE.

PUBLISHED UNDER THE DIRECTION OF

DR. SAMUEL THOMSON,

THE ORIGINAL DISCOVERER AND FOUNDER OF THE THOMSONIAN
BOTANIC SYSTEM.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOL. III. & IV.



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THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

T "So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME III.]

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 5, 1837.

[NUMBER 1.]

[Original.]

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON.

AN ACROSTIC.

SAMUEL THOMSON, Nature's son,
A noble vict'ry thou hast won;
Midst all the threats from min'ral hives,
Unletter'd Thomson's system thrives:—
E'en spite of *lies*, which *quacks* do vend,
L. obelia stands as man's best friend.

Though *quacks* do bleed and poison men,
H eat you restore, with good *Cayenne*:—
O! how sublime, your native theme;—
Much fame surrounds *Thomsonian Steam*.
Science, as taught by *learned* fools,
On human lives doth sharp its tools;—
Nor doth abate its cruel course,

But with the advance of Thomson's force.
O ft have learn'd quacks and foes oppress'd—
T heir forces join'd, your rights to wrest;
A nd laws obtain'd, quite plain—direct—
"N o Botanist shall debts collect."
I n vain have they their malice tried—
S amuel still lives—a healthy guide;—
T homsonian System's spreading wide.

STEPHEN F. FOWLER.

Milton, Mass., July 25, 1837.

THE NEW BEDFORD CASE.

The public have been already apprised, through the medium of newspaper reports, of the loss of a patient under the care of Mr. JOHN MORGRIDGE, Thomsonian practitioner, at New Bedford. A circumstance of so rare occurrence was of course a "God-send" to the *regulars* of that town—and they consequently made the most of it. Not only was a post mortem examination of the *subject* had by them, from which (of course, again) they drew conclusions unfavorable to our practice, and in favor of their own previously expressed opinions—but they also made a statement of the case through the newspapers, of the usual "raw-head-and-bloody-bones" genus,—of the more prominent characteristics of which, no Thomsonian will need to be particularly told. False as were the representations of the *diploma*-tists in point of fact however, they nevertheless had the effect to raise a high, though but temporary, excitement in the minds of the inhabitants of New Bedford, in consequence of which, Mr. Morgridge was subjected to legal arrest and examination, on a charge of having *poisoned* his patient to death, with *lobelia* and *cayenne*! (As if "the doctors" considered it a crime to give their patients *poison*!) A judicial examination of the matter, however, in which the accused would perhaps have had something like *fair play*, was by no means what his *six* regular opponents wanted, and these proceedings therefore were quashed,—but not (if we are correctly informed) until the *mineralizers* had vented all the malice and venom which they conveniently could, on the botanical system at large, and *lobelia* and *cayenne* in particular. These misrepresentations Dr. Morgridge prom-

ises to notice more fully hereafter. The article from which the subjoined extracts are made, appeared in the *New Bedford Gazette and Courier* of Sept. 26, as a "Reply to a communication from 'Drs. Paul Spooner, Alexander Read, William C. Whitbridge, Julius S. Mayhew, Samuel West, and Lyman Bartlett, Physicians of New Bedford,' relative to the death of Mrs. ELIZA L. HOWLAND; dated Sept. 6, 1837."—Although this matter may now be considered in one sense, as settled, yet the principal facts of the case are worthy of record, as another instance of the dishonesty and infatuation of the opponents of medical reform; and we consequently give copious extracts from Dr. M's reply—the whole of which we should copy had we the required space to spare. After a short preface, detailing the reasons why he is thus compelled to appear before the public, Dr. Morgridge proceeds to give the following history of the whole affair.—[ED. MAN.]

"On Tuesday morning, August 29th, at about 8 of the clock, I was called to Mrs. Howland, and found her sick in bed, with a very great prostration of the vital powers, pulse low, a general and sudden failure of strength, and a very considerable excitement of the nervous system. I was informed that she was just coming out of what she called one of her 'distressed spells.' On further inquiry, I learned that she had been taken the day before with an unusual degree of coldness, particularly of her hands and feet, and (to use her own words) 'a sinking, deathly distress at the pit of the stomach,' which would, by spells, go all over her, producing general distress, with 'indescribable, horrid sensations,' which became alarming to both patient and friends. She could obtain relief only by taking warm medicines, and making warm applications externally. I prepared an enema, or injection, had it administered, ordered her to be got into a perspiration, and to be kept so till afternoon, when I attended again, and, with the entire approbation of both patient and friends, administered a full *Thomsonian course of medicine*. This so far relieved the patient and checked the progress of disease, that, by following the warm medicines strictly, with the occasional use of injections, and a warm stone at the feet, (when necessary to keep her in a moist state,) she remained comfortable until Thursday morning, when, by reason of her watcher's having fallen asleep the latter part of the night, and consequently her having been neglected, and the medicines not given for several hours, she became dry, (might have taken some cold,) and had a return of one of her 'distressed spells.'—She was again partially relieved by getting her into a moisture, and continued so till about 4 o'clock, P.M. when her distress again returned. From this time we were unable to afford relief by the same course of treatment, which had, in every other similar case, proved availing. A second course of medicine was now proposed. Her husband, and his brother, who was present, and who had been once cured by the Thomsonian practice, were both in favor of its being administered, and I believe advised her to that effect.

Her mother declined giving her advice on the subject, as she said she was not well enough acquainted with the practice to know how to advise; but had no objection to its being administered, if her daughter wished it. The daughter had some aversion to taking a second course of medicine, by reason of her fears having been excited by some of her *pretended* friends, not belonging to the house, who had from the first offered the most unreasonable opposition of that course which she, with the advice of her husband, had coolly and deliberately resolved to pursue. The first day, while going through the course of treatment, she was annoyed by women who protruded themselves into her room, with such reiterations as these: 'Eliza, what *have* they been doing to you! Eliza, they are killing you—they are killing you! Where is your mother? I am going for your mother. They are killing you!' She begged them to be calm, assuring them that she was much relieved, and felt the better for the practice.

"She soon, however, decided that she would have another course of medicine, as she continued much distressed and could get no relief. Accordingly, with the full consent of the patient and her husband, we administered a second course of medicine on Thursday evening. At this time the lobelia was administered sparingly, and in very small doses. All that was given was not more than half the quantity we usually give for a course, and not so much as Dr. Bartlett since stated, before the Court, was found in her stomach. And I have, in extreme cases, given more than four times that quantity, with the most beneficial results. As soon as she commenced taking the lobelia, she said that she felt measurably relieved of her distress, even before vomiting commenced. After she had done vomiting, I conversed with her, and she said that she felt completely relieved, and perfectly free from pain and distress, and felt inclined to go to sleep. I then gave her a cup of porridge, and she soon fell asleep. About 4 o'clock in the morning (Friday) I discovered alarming symptoms, which led me to believe that gangrene had commenced. (This fact was disclosed at the post mortem examination.) I expressed this opinion to her husband and friends. I told them that the effect produced by the medicine was good, but that I feared it was produced too late. Nothing was administered after she had done vomiting, but tonics, stimulants, and nourishment. We were never able to produce a free perspiration from the first. Nothing more than a gentle moisture. She complained of 'cold chills' continually through the first course of medicine.

"One circumstance more I will mention. On Thursday evening I told the husband of the deceased, that I considered it a hard case, and that I felt discouraged about doing any thing more for her, successfully, against so much opposition: and requested him to release me and employ a physician that his friends would be satisfied with. But he would not release me, saying that his wife and himself were both satisfied, and did not wish for any other physician. The deceased frequently told me the same. Her mother likewise told me, the same evening, that she '*considered Eliza very dangerous*, and that I must not leave the house for the night, unless she was better.'

"The medical gentlemen seem anxious to convey the idea that the patient was taken from a state of almost perfect health, and as it were tied down in her bed, and there, (by the administration of 'lobelia

emetics, cayenne pepper injection, and drinks seasoned with red pepper, hot and cold baths, steaming with hot stones, &c. &c.' which they say, were liberally and repeatedly used,) most cruelly and barbarously murdered. And that the murderous process was unrelentingly pursued 'though in opposition to the remonstrances of both *patient* and *friends*, even after death had fastened his icy hand upon his victim.' They have successfully given the impression that the deceased had no disease about her, only that she 'anticipated a return of her headache.' For this modest stretch of the truth they have no excuse, as I gave five of them a minute account of her symptoms on the morning of her death. Again they assert, 'after she had ceased to breathe we examined her feet, and found them *uncomfortably warm*.' Would they be understood, that the heat was uncomfortable to the deceased, or to their hands? To the latter of course, as she must have been incapable of feeling, before this. Who will believe such palpable absurdities? Her feet must have been near to the point of boiling heat! At the examination they say—'*Though about eight hours had elapsed since her death, we observed not only the body, but the limbs, and even the hands, still warm—as much so as those of some persons in ordinary health*,' &c. To controvert such an impossibility as this, I need bring no evidence. It controverts itself. Though many may fail to believe it, none can believe it. If it were true, the medical gentlemen might justly be charged with the death of the lady, by dissecting a living body. 'In conclusion,' they sum up the whole matter with their '*UNANIMOUS OPINION*, that the death of Mrs. Eliza L. Howland is attributable *solely* to the medicines, &c. which were administered to her during her sickness.' Here I shall leave a candid, enlightened, and honest public, after following these six physicians through their long detail of misrepresentations and absurdities, to decide how much importance should be attached to their '*unanimous opinion*.'

"I would here remark, that on account of the friends of the deceased, I would gladly have avoided a rehearsal of this matter; as I think the dead ought to be permitted to rest in peace. But when they consider that I have been maliciously dragged before a tribunal of my country in a criminal action, and that there, not even perjury could substantiate a plea against me, and that I was discharged without being permitted to adduce a single evidence in vindication of my cause, they will readily perceive the propriety of this defence. And I can assure them, that, whatever I have said or may say on the subject, is not without respect to their keenest sensibilities.

"Some of the testimony brought against me at the time of my examination will be entitled to due attention, as soon as time and circumstances will permit. After candidly comparing this, and the following testimonies, with their communication, the public will no doubt appreciate the motives by which the medical gentlemen have been actuated.

"JOHN MORGRIDGE.

"September 23, 1837."

[The above statement of Dr. Morgridge is corroborated in every particular by the testimony of Mr. Frederick Howland, husband of the deceased, before the police court; as well as by the statement of Mrs. Eliza Butler, who resided under the same roof with the deceased, and that of Mary Ann Downing, who

attended upon the deceased as her nurse. Of these we shall copy but one—Mrs. Butler's—and we crowd in that, only because it contains a very concise account of the whole affair. Without this, we conceive enough has already been given, to satisfy any candid person, that, in their insane eagerness to hunt down Thomsonism, the *Immaculate Six* completely out-ran truth.—ED. MAN.]

ELIZA BUTLER'S STATEMENT.

"I lived in the same house with Mrs. Eliza L. Howland, at the time of her last sickness and death. I saw her about half past seven o'clock on Tuesday morning, three days previous to her death. At this time (Tuesday morning) I found her in bed, very sick. She complained of chills, and great distress in the stomach. Her feet and hands were cold. She said she did not think any thing could be done to relieve her, the distress was so great, and so unlike anything she had ever experienced before. I heard her say to her husband, 'Frederick, I feel that death is nigh.' This was before Mr. Morgridge administered his first course of medicine. After the first course of medicine she said she felt better: her distress was not so great; and she was much relieved. On Wednesday she was quite comfortable all day. She did not take but two courses of medicine during her sickness. The first was in the afternoon of Tuesday, the second was Thursday night. She frequently called for hot stones, and it was with great difficulty that she could be kept warm. She called for more cayenne in her drinks. I never heard her complain of being uncomfortably warm but once, and that was during the administration of the warm bath, Tuesday evening. I was with her frequently in the day time and evening. I assisted in the administration of both courses of medicines.

"ELIZA BUTLER, wife of James D. Butler."

EATING NUTMEGS in large quantities is dangerous business. There are two cases on record in which it very nearly produced death. The first case was last spring, the latter on the evening of the 17th ult. at Portland. The first was a young married lady of rather feeble health. The second was a young unmarried lady of a perfectly sound constitution and health. The first ate one whole nutmeg; the second, one and a half—to use her own language, "good fat ones." In each case they produced sudden and alarming agitation of the nervous system—numbness of the tongue and face—intolerable distress in the eyes, described as a sensation of whirling or violent twisting—death-like sickness at the stomach, and faintness—intolerable vertigo, ringing in the ears—and the most intense mental agony. The stomach is rendered almost perfectly insensible to the action of the most stimulating of the common emetics.

A NICE DISTINCTION.—In a cause respecting a will, at the Derby Assizes, (England) evidence was given to prove the testatrix (an apothecary's wife) a lunatic, and, among other things, it was deposed that she had swept a quantity of pots, lotions, potions, &c., into the street as rubbish. "I doubt," said the learned judge, "whether sweeping physic into the street be any proof of insanity." "True, my lord," replied the counsel, "but the sweeping of the pots away certainly was!"

IMPORTANT RESOLUTIONS.

Philadelphia Branch of the United States Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society.

At a meeting held September 1st, 1837, at the Firemen's Hall, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Whereas the Philadelphia Branch of the Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society is desirous of keeping the Thomsonian practice in its simplicity and purity, so as to insure public confidence, and guard the people as much as possible against the impositions of pretenders, both in the practice and sale of secret nostrums; and whereas it is important, for the furtherance of this object, that the names of those who have the confidence and sanction of this society for the practice and sale of medicine be published in such manner as the society may direct: therefore

Resolved, That the board of managers be authorized to ascertain the names of those who have obtained license from this society for the practice of medicine on the Thomsonian system, within the limits of this branch, and that the society authorize their names to be published in the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel, and other papers as it may direct.

Resolved, That a committee of three members, who are disinterested in the sale or practice of medicine, be appointed for the term of one year, whose duty it shall be to visit the establishments of the members of this branch, at their request, once in three months, to ascertain the quality and purity of their medicines, and if satisfactory, their sanction to be given to that effect in the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel, and other papers as the society may direct.

WM. HENRY FONERDEN, Sec'y.

The above we copy from the Botanic Sentinel—the editor of which appends the subjoined remarks.

"Every true Thomsonian will be gratified with the above resolutions. There is now a hope that the system may be ultimately established in its purity. It will be observed that the committee will not wait upon those who have the Thomsonian medicines for sale, except at their own request. Every one however, who is conscious that his medicines are good, and is resolved not to vend quack nostrums, will court the investigation of said committee. Otherwise it must be regarded as evidence that their medicines are inferior, and that they are afraid of scrutiny. The honest have nothing to fear, but the impostor will skulk away and hide his head in the dark. If there are any who have been in the habit of vending spurious medicines, they will see the necessity of abandoning the practice, or of renouncing all claim to the title of *Thomsonian*. Those only, who have been guilty of imposition, will object to a visit from the committee, and we trust that none of this description will be found within the limits of Philadelphia. Time will make manifest."

ANTIDOTE FOR PRUSSIC ACID.—Dr. Robinson of London is delivering lectures on poisons. He contends positively that a stream of cold water poured on the base of the skull and the spine adjacent, is an antidote to prussic acid. A rabbit to whom the acid was administered before the audience, and who had all the symptoms of death upon him, was by this remedial agent entirely restored. If true, this will be good news for the "regular" users of this poison.

ON FEVER.—From an article in the *Botanic Advocate*, signed James Ross, jr., and dated Rutland, Vt., August 1837, we extract the following.

Dr. Thomson, it is well known, has advanced doctrines entirely new, in many particulars, from those commonly taught in our medical schools. We are so constituted, that when once our opinions are formed, so they will remain, until we have something to convince us to the contrary—no matter whether they be right or wrong. It becomes us, then, to use our best endeavors to disseminate light, and dissipate darkness. This we think, is all that is necessary to convince every consistent and thinking person, who is not governed by some selfish motive.

In relation to this subject, (fever,) pathology has been in a continual state of revolution and instability for near 3000 years. Theories have risen and sunk again in rapid succession. Each has had its day and its votaries to yield to it their implicit confidence; but the hand of time has hitherto overturned all these unsubstantial, though often highly plausible theories.

Boerhaave collected together from a great many authors, all the symptoms which had been noticed in fever. He then struck from his list all those which appear only in certain modifications of fever. When he had done this, only three were left, viz.—a quick and frequent pulse—preternatural heat of the surface of the body—and a sense of cold or chilliness in the commencement. Pathologists have divided fevers into *idiopathic* and *symptomatic*, according to their development; but their division constitutes at the present day, one of the most important and warmly contested subjects in pathology. By the first of these divisions is meant those fevers that are developed and sustained by causes which produce a general morbid state of the system, independent of any local inflammation or fixed irritation.

Among the advocates of the second division is Broussais, who contends that the inflammation or irritation whence the febrile sympathies radiate as from a focus, is almost universally located in the mucus membrane of the alimentary canal. Hence *gastro-enteritis* is with him the grand cause of all the febrile phenomena.

Dr. Thomson's theory appears to us to be much more correct, when he tells us, that fever is heat, but a disturbed state of it.

The *Aetiology* [i. e. cause] of fever, Dr. Thomson thinks to consist in obstruction, and that mostly in the capillaries; of course perspiration is suppressed, the other secretions and excretions are in a depraved state, and they being in a morbid condition, an equilibrium of heat is not preserved, and there is an accumulation of it on the surface. Recrementitious matter, which in health is separated and thrown off, being retained in the circulation or re-absorbed, becomes a source of irritation to the sanguiferous system and therefore of irritative disease. The retention of the perspirable matter can only occur in consequence of some previous cause adequate to disturb or arrest the action of the cutaneous exhalents.

Inactivity of the cutaneous exhalents constitutes the initial link in a large portion of our diseases. Let it not be imagined that the recrementitious matter contained in the blood is in a simple state, and that it cannot possess power sufficiently irritating or active to excite morbid vascular action.

In whatever form this matter may exist in the blood, it is still recrementitious; and it is not to be

presumed that materials of this character could be long retained in the system without some injurious effect on the animal economy.

Cold is perhaps the most frequent of all the remote causes of disease in the temperate latitudes.—The morbid influence of cold is always efficient in proportion as the temperature of the body has been raised, but more especially in proportion as the perspiration has been more or less copious.

Whenever perspiration becomes obstructed, the blood becomes surcharged, and would much oftener be attended with serious consequences, were not the redundancy vicariously carried off by other evacuations. Every person is not aware of the abundant discharge in this manner. Some writers say that three-fifths, two-thirds, and even three-fourths, of all that is taken into the system is discharged by these evacuations.

Let a person be immersed in cold water for a length of time, and perspiration will be checked, and an immoderate flow of urine will be the result. Any inordinate evacuation from the body is usually attended with a diminution of some one or more of the others. The indications of cure are to restore the secretions and excretions, to raise the inward heat, and cause a free perspiration to dissipate the heat accumulated at the surface.

In short, the indications of cure are to restore every organ, so that they may perform their natural and healthy functions. This being done, the patient is well.

I believe from experience, that emetics of the deobstruent kind, such as *Lobelia Inflata*, &c., are altogether preferable. They give the system a shock, act powerfully on the glandular system, and have a great tendency to restore all the secretions and excretions.

Capsicum is a powerful agent in causing a free perspiration, obviating torpor and insusceptibility, and arousing the vital organs to a healthy action.

Finally—when once the system is cleared of disease, then I have found Dr. Thomson's class of tonics admirably adapted to restore the debilitated system when reduced by disease.

INJECTIONS.—In diarrhoea and cholera, the bowels have sometimes lost their force in such a manner, and the spincter muscles are so relaxed, that stimulating injections cannot be retained. It is necessary in this case to give the *cold* bayberry infusion and without stimulus—and even apply mechanical force to prevent the expulsion of the injection, until the life of the parts is restored sufficiently to retain more active ones. I have more than once applied direct force to prevent the evacuation of injections in cases of cholera; and I feel convinced that the life of the patient depended altogether upon this precaution.—[*Southern Botanic Journal*.]

PINK.—The common garden pink possesses considerable medicinal power. The flowers in decoction are an excellent remedy for green stools in children. It is a fine carminative and anodyne for the bowels. Other things may be better.

A New Orleans paper says, there have been doctors enough in that city, since the yellow fever commenced, to breed the cholera. One kind of pestilence at a time, if you please.

PRACTICE OF DR. SCAMMELL.

FRIEND CHAPMAN—You see I have not forgotten my promise to send you a few particulars respecting my practice in this place and vicinity.

Since my commencement here in January 1836, I have administered medicine to about 500 patients, with good success. I have had cases of disease of almost every type, and have lost but three or four. The practice is spreading very fast. I have had more than I could attend to a considerable portion of the time. We have many bitter enemies here who take delight in circulating all manner of false stories respecting this practice; but it avails them nothing, for truth must and will prevail. I have made many very remarkable cures that I might give you the particulars and treatment of, but time and hurry of business will not at present admit of it. I will relate a few of recent occurrence, which perhaps may be somewhat interesting to you.

Canker.—A child nine months old had been sick a number of days before I was called, had had six or seven fits in the course of 24 hours, and lay in a stupid condition most of the time. Rather an obstinate case, thought I; but life is precious to all of us; and thinking of the power of our remedies, I commenced with the utmost confidence. First with weak composition tea, bayberry, &c., injections once in from 30 to 45 minutes; then emetic, consisting of the seeds of lobelia, one teaspoonful, cayenne, No. 6, and valerian in proportion, which made it very sick under the operation, but much relieved of bad symptoms; fell asleep for a short time, and remained quite comfortable by taking composition, bayberry tea, injections, &c. for about four hours. It then relapsed into another fit. I immediately commenced giving another emetic as strong as before; operated well; got about half through the operation, and went into another fit. Was not this rather discouraging? A hard case thought I; but thinks I, lobelia never has deceived me, and I will persevere. I continued with emetic and injections until I saw I had conquered. The child never had another fit, and soon recovered, and has since enjoyed good health. This case was in Mendon.

Insanity.—A young woman, also in Mendon, insane, caused by taking cold; had been coming on about a week before I saw her; had been attended by Dr. Metcalf. Her friends could not obtain much encouragement of her soon getting over it, though it was thought she possibly might in the course of a month; did not do any thing that had any good effect, which caused them to send for me. I gave them considerable encouragement, if they would bring her to my house, which they did the next day. She was at my house two days, went home much better, and the next day after became quite rational, and has remained so since. This, with the two accompanying certificates, must suffice for the present.

A. SCAMMELL, T. B. P.

Milford, September 3, 1837.

CERTIFICATES OF CURES.

DR. A. SCAMMELL—Dear Sir: I send this to inform you that for fifteen years my health was very delicate, and for the most part I was unable to work. During that period I was attended by eight or ten M.D.'s, but all to no purpose. Some said I had too much blood; others said too much fever. Some said they must blister, and so they did—and did smite me

with sores as Satan did Job. But they had not so much mercy on me as Satan had on Job, for he spared his life. My life is spared, it is true; but no thanks to them; for I think the remedy worse than the disease. I became deaf under their treatment and remained so four years; and last January I became blind also, and remained so one fortnight, when I was advised by my friends to send for you. I did; and it was the wisest step that I ever took. After going through one course of your medicine, I could hear as well as ever I could, and see better than I could two years ago. My health is very good and has been ever since; and I take pleasure in stating that I found immediate relief, and after a few weeks was able to resume my former business. Never shall I employ a *regular* doctor again; I have tried them to my satisfaction. Never did I find the least relief from them, but have had my health very much impaired with their poisonous drugs. It is seven months since I commenced on the Thomsonian system, and I think it to be one of the best systems in our land to preserve life and health. What more can I say of the Thomsonian system, than that it is a blessed institution; and, as I am a well wisher to all my fellow creatures, it is my prayer that they might be brought to a knowledge of its healing virtues, and abandon all poisonous drugs, which destroy health and life, and embrace the Thomsonian system, which is simple and harmless. I close by wishing you success and prosperity in your practice.

ABIGAIL GLAZUR.

Bellingham, August 7, 1837.

DR. SCAMMELL—Dear Sir: Feeling it a duty I owe to you and the public, I give the following particulars respecting my health for ten years past, hoping it may be of some benefit to others who may be in a like situation, if any should be so unfortunate; but I hope none will be brought to suffer what I have suffered, and I pray that all my fellow creatures may be warned by the following true statement, to beware of mineral doctors, knowing by experience, that their practice brings suffering and death to many who are not acquainted with their dangerous practice. In the year 1827, then about 17 years of age, I was taken with what the doctors called a fever, being very sick; some part of the time considered past help, or beyond the power of medicine, and also insensible to my then suffering condition. I was as helpless as an infant most part of the time for six months; I was bled, blistered, and took calomel so much that my limbs were of no use to me. Thus I remained, tormented day after day—first a blister, then a sore—until about the seventh or eighth month I began slowly to gain, so as to be able by the assistance of some one, to get about house, although my left leg and right arm were entirely useless. I could not get about without support for more than two years, when I gradually began to gain my strength. One M.D. said the cause of my useless arm was on account of cutting a nerve, when I was bled; but none would acknowledge the cause of my almost useless leg. I have thought it caused by taking calomel. My arm was much withered, cords, &c. grown out of shape, and have remained so to the present day; health very delicate; unable to do but little for my support. All I can do is with my left hand, when my health will permit, but that is but part of the time. Such was the situation of my health when I

was carried to your infirmary, contrary to the will of almost all my friends, many of them taking their leave of me, expecting never to see me more in this world, thinking that your steam and lobelia would make quick work of me. But I told them that life was a burthen to me unless I could be better; and I had been attended by five or six mineral doctors, and they did me no good. But after staying with you three or four days, I found much relief; and in one week I was better than I had been for a considerable time previous. After staying with you three weeks, I find my health quite good, perhaps as good as I may ever expect, considering the ruined state of my constitution; and feel that I might enjoy myself well many years, if it were not for my almost useless limbs, which you said when you first saw me could not be made strong again, having been so long diseased. But I think they are some stronger; and I think if I could have been doctored with the Thomsonian medicine at first, I should not have had to suffer an hundredth part so much, and should have kept the use of my limbs and constitution. You are at liberty to make such use of this as you may think most beneficial to my fellow creatures.

ESTHER SMITH.

Bellingham, August 10, 1837.

PRACTICE OF DR. JENKINS.

MEASLES.

"Reading, December 20, 1837.

"This may certify, that my son had been laboring under a mild form of Measles for several days, when, about the time the measles were turning, he was attacked with a violent convulsion fit, by having been exposed to cold changes of air in the room. I sent for Dr. David A. Grosvenor. He came, and requested to have Dr. N. Richardson called, who accordingly was sent for; but he not being at home, Dr. D. Gould was called. He came, and assisted Dr. Grosvenor to prescribe and administer to the patient.—After a few hours' consultation, he left, and said he would call at 9 o'clock in the morning, if not called elsewhere. Dr. Grosvenor attended the patient about 17 hours, and tried his best means to restore him to health, with the advice of Dr. Gould, but all to no purpose. They then considered him beyond the reach of medicine—he being both speechless and helpless; and so he remained through all their operations. The treatment he received from Dr. Grosvenor was agreeable to the mind of Dr. Gould. For an emetic, ipecacuanha; with injections of milk and water: his feet were put into hot water, and a poultice applied to them; about one pint of Blood was taken. He was then laid in a warm bath about 15 minutes, then a blister was applied to the back of his neck, and leeches on the forehead; then antimony and senna, and a few spoonfuls of snake-root tea was given. But seeing this practice and plan of operation fail, we waited for Dr. Gould one hour over the time at which he proposed to come. We then supposed he had been called away, and seeing the spasm was not removed, but his eyes closed, his teeth set, and a rattling in his throat, it seemed, to all human appearance, that death was fast hastening to close his earthly existence forever. In this dilemma, Dr. J. Jenkins undertook his cure, and gave the Thomsonian medicines, which brought up a large quantity of phlegm, quite thick and hard. The patient's strength was so far gone, that Dr. J.

was obliged to pry open the jaws, and remove the phlegm from the mouth. In a few hours the spasms were over, and refreshing sleep followed. In a few hours more, his senses returned, and the third day he was up, and about his room. On the morning of the fifth day he took his seat at the table, ate and drank as though nothing had happened to him, and on the ninth day took a course of medicine, and returned home. He went out the succeeding day in good health, which remains good to the present time. And it is our sincere opinion, that his life was saved by the Thomsonian medicines, and none other.

Maj. DANIEL FLINT, Jr.
SARAH E. FLINT,
THOMAS UPTON.

Reading, August 9, 1837."

TYPHUS AND NERVOUS FEVER.

MR. CHAPMAN—Sir:

The following cases and our own observation, has fully demonstrated to our minds, the superior efficacy of the Thomsonian medicine over all that is administered by the regular faculty. We have just tested the practice of a college made doctor, in our own family, on the *Typhus fever*. It was more than 20 days before the fever turned, which convinced us that the theory and practice was all wrong, and dangerous even in the most skilful hands. And we have found it more safe to trust to nature alone, than to employ a doctor to draw our blood, and fill our system with mineral poisons, and the nostrums of the shops:—Therefore, this is to certify, that my child was sick with the Typhus fever, which had been settled five days. We then called Dr. Jenkins to attend; he came, and administered the Thomsonian medicine, and in 24 hours the fever was turned, by two courses of medicine, and restoratives. In eight days he was restored to good health, and it remains good to this present time, (Aug. 21, 1837.) A younger child of ours was taken with the fever very violently, and was delirious. We sent for Dr. Jenkins, who attended and administered one course of medicine, which restored him to good health in three days; and it continues good to this time (Aug. 21.) About the same time I was attacked with a nervous fever in the night, so violently, that it required two or three to take care of me. Dr. Jenkins again attended, and gave me a course of medicine, and in six hours the fever was turned. I took a course the next day, and the restoratives a few days, by which I was restored to health in seven or eight days, and better health than I had enjoyed for a long time.—From our own experience, we are decided friends to the Thomsonian system of medicine; and therefore do earnestly recommend the same to the patronage of the public. You are at liberty to make what use you please of this communication, to promote the Thomsonian system of medical practice.

THOMAS C. MASON, JOHN MASON,
PHEBE MASON. RHODA MASON.
Andover, August 21, 1837.

Mr. George Riley, a farmer of Jefferson Co., Va., has had within a few days past several valuable horses killed by poison, administered by some unknown villain. If discovered, it is to be hoped he will be taught the necessity of procuring a 'diploma,' before he again interferes, ever so slightly, with the prerogatives of the 'learned faculty.'

STRICTURE OF THE LACHRYMAL DUCTS.—I report the following case for the benefit of any afflicted in a similar manner. I had been for three years afflicted with stricture of the lachrymal ducts. As soon as cold weather approached, if I exposed my eyes to the wind ever so little, they would immediately begin to swell; and a sac of water, not unfrequently combined with a white ropy matter, would form under each eye. I could dislodge it by pressure of a finger; but the incessant weeping kept my face sore continually. Last winter, the water worked its way far down into my cheeks, and troubled me so much that I found something must be done. I was strongly recommended by a friend to apply to Dr. Reynolds of this city. I did so, though I must acknowledge without any faith in his skill, he being a "regular"—but I wanted to hear his advice. He directed me to go home and apply four leeches; after which, to place a strip of several thicknesses of cloth on each side of my nose, and keep them wet with cold water. I had heard Dr. Thomson say, if you wish to get well, get the doctors' advice, and then go contrary. It was and is now my belief. On a Saturday night, I applied a poultice of slippery elm and cayenne; a teaspoonful of each when dry. Scalded the elm, and added the cayenne. Kept it on from Saturday night until Monday morning. Swelling much abated. Being obliged to go out, kept them as warm as possible, and applied a poultice three nights subsequently, keeping it on all night. Thursday morning, the swelling had entirely abated, and I have not been troubled since. **GEO. A. CHAPMAN,**
Publisher of the Manual.

Another case similar to the above, is reported by Dr. J. W. Comfort, in the *Botanic Sentinel*, p. 62, v. 3. In this instance, a wash was prescribed, and the patient told if this did not cure, a surgical operation would be necessary. (The same was told to Mr. C. although not mentioned above.) The wash did not cure, but a Thomsonian course of medicine did, and a surgical operation avoided. We consider a full course of medicine a better prescription than that adopted above; and even less disagreeable to the patient, because occupying less time. In this case, "before the course was finished, the obstruction was removed, and the secretions were restored to their natural channel." The following are remarks of the editor of the *Sentinel*.—[ED. MAN.]

"For obstruction of the *nasal duct*, the doctors almost invariably resort to an operation. They perforate the cartilage of the nose, and insert a tube, which is designed to convey the tears, as they escape from the inner corner of the eye, into the nostril. The operation is painful, and oftentimes unsuccessful, even as an artificial conveyance of the tears. But as to the actual obstruction in the nasal duct, no effort is made to relieve it; and thus the patient is left to suffer, perhaps a whole life time, with an affection which one or two Thomsonian courses of medicine would generally relieve."

CHOLERA IN ITALY.—The deaths from Cholera at Palermo, Aug. 2, had diminished to 15 a day, but at Trapani, they are 300 to 350 per day. At Rome, Aug. 5, it was not certain that Cholera existed; there was however to be a grand procession—the Pope at the head—to implore divine protection. [Very creditable to the 'doctors,' truly!]

INDEPENDENCE.—One important lesson which people must learn before they can march clear of imposture, is to have confidence in their own minds—not in their knowledge [i.e. acquired information], but in their own judgement and powers of reasoning. The contrary is too apt to be the fact. Men are too apt to overrate their knowledge, while they underrate their own capacity. If they would but strengthen their confidence in their intellectual powers, and distrust their own knowledge and information, they would carefully study out the facts which should be the foundation of wisdom, and independently draw their own conclusions from these facts. How ridiculous it is for the citizens of a free government to boast of their institutions while their minds are slavishly confined in the yoke which some distinguished dunce—dubbed a great man—has placed about their quiet necks. That man is an arrant slave, and deserves to be the subject of a despotism, who wavers the least in an opinion which he has carefully and deliberately formed, when he finds that some of the most distinguished men in the country differ from it; and he is a bigot who will not change his opinion after he has become acquainted with facts and arguments which prove it to be erroneous. It is the mark of a true democrat to be as independent in his opinions as in his action: to be ever ready to ask information of all who have it to bestow, but to ask no man what inferences it is proper for him to draw from facts. The right of representation and of universal suffrage cannot secure a people from ultimate thralldom and tyranny, who allow any man to be the keeper of their consciences, or the dictator of their opinions. Perfect freedom of mind alone can preserve political freedom.—[Boston Post.]

COUGH DROPS.—Take of Hoarhound, a handful; coarse Bayberry, four ounces; Ohio Kercuma, (called Golden Seal,) two ounces; coarsely pulverized Pond Lily root, two ounces; Skunk Cabbage root, in coarse powder, three ounces; Nerve Powder, four ounces; Wake Robin, or Indian Turnip, three ounces; half an ounce of No. 2;—boil the ingredients in a gallon of rain water, or soft spring water, down to half a gallon: strain it through a thick cloth, and reduce it by again boiling, down to one quart. Then add a pint of good sugar house molasses; two ounces of a saturated tincture of No. 1, and one ounce of the third preparation, and bottle it for use. Dose, from half a teaspoonful to a teaspoonful, three or four times a day. In frequent fits of coughing, a lesser quantity may be taken more frequently, as the stomach will bear it. At night it may be taken in composition tea, to which may be added Skunk Cabbage and Nerve Powder: cover up warm and put a warm stone to the feet.—[Thom. Rec.]

PROGRESS OF REFORM.—The present generation are in possession of many truths that were unknown to the last. We may therefore safely conclude that knowledge and science are advancing with speedy strides, and ignorance and superstition are retrograding in proportion. It is well to remember that persecution is, in a great degree, the offspring of ignorance; and, in order to wither up the sprouts, we must extirpate the root. Plant wisdom where ignorance grows, and ignorance will soon wither and die.

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 1, 1837.

SALUTATORY.—The readers of the Manual were made aware, by the valedictory of the late editor in the last number, that with the commencement of a new volume, would also commence the services of a new editor—the writer of this. Of the importance of the duties we thereby assume, we are fully conscious,—but we are sure that the generosity of our readers, and particularly the intrinsic merits of the cause we advocate, are fully adequate to sustain us. While the Manual remains, as it now is, under the supervision, generally, of the Founder of the botanic system himself, it can hardly be necessary that we dilate much upon the course we intend to pursue—for the fact of its being still under his control is a guarantee sufficient, that the doctrines heretofore maintained will continue to be supported, and that every effort will be made to disseminate the system in its original purity and simplicity—totally and entirely unencumbered by the additions or pretended improvements of any person whatever. Not that we shall shut our ears to the voice of truth, from whatever source it may salute us,—but on the contrary shall endeavor always to seek its guidance, and be ever ready to follow where it may lead. On this point, we acknowledge that we are somewhat enthusiastic,—and are not only anxious to attain a knowledge of truth for our own satisfaction, but are willing to be subjected for a season, if we can assist in the dissemination of that already apparent, to the toils and responsibilities of editorship—an office by no means to be coveted by him who seeks for mental serenity or bodily ease. And we would here take occasion hastily to remark, that with respect to any individual controversies which the late editor may have entered upon with any persons, we desire to be totally excused from their consideration,—for we shall probably have quarrels enough of our own to attend to, without being pestered with those of other people. We could wish we might be entirely delivered from this vexation, although we can hardly hope to be so highly favored, and, as we cannot expect the exemption, we shall always endeavor to be in readiness to give our enemies a *hot* reception, whether they come singly or in squads. We here refer more particularly to the *mongrel* class—for we would by no means unintentionally give currency to so slanderous an idea, as that the "*regular*" army would ever leave, or permit, a member of their clan to bear the brunt of an attack or defence unaided and alone. We are happy to be able to congratulate the friends of medical reform on the onward progress of the simple and efficacious botanic system of Thomson. Poisonous nostrums and dog latin are every where obliged to succumb to efficacious remedies and com-

mon sense; and the false prejudices incited by the common herd of diplomatized quacks, are daily and hourly yielding to the force of irrefutable truth, as promulgated by the friends of true medical science. It is only necessary that the opposers of the poison practice of the "faculty" continue their philanthropic efforts a few years longer, to establish the reformed practice on a sure and lasting foundation. The benefit which will consequently result to the constitution of man, in its most extended sense, will alone be enough to induce the lover of his species to renewed effort—for as "the parents have eaten sour grapes, so hath the teeth of the children been set on edge." And those who are indisposed to use their exertions in so enlarged a sphere of benevolence as this, will still, we hope, be active in disseminating the healthy truths of our system among their immediate friends and connections. Receiving no other support than is excited by the promptings of the natural selfishness, and the benevolence of mankind, our system is still sure of ultimate victory over all opposition—for notwithstanding the dishonest clamor of professional clanship, men already begin to think who never thought before; and once have obtained a glimpse beyond the veil of learned ignorance which has heretofore so closely enveloped the mass of the community, the truth bursts with too admirable a refulgence upon the mind to be afterwards easily relinquished. With these promises and certainties of success, and with a cause in which even mediocrity may be eloquent, we shall zealously lend our aid in extending the knowledge of the system of Thomson in its original purity and simplicity—confident that in no other cause could our slender abilities be more honorably and beneficially engaged.

THE MANUAL.

☞ We shall in future, issue the Manual *semi-monthly*,—that is, the volumes will be completed in six months instead of a year, at the same price for each volume. Persons at a distance are requested to pay for a year complete, in advance, when convenient. The Manual will not in any case be continued unless payment be made in advance for one volume, at least.

TO SUBSCRIBERS AND AGENTS.

☞ Subscribers who do not wish to continue this volume of the Manual, will please return this number, with their names thereon, or they will be charged with the volume. The Manual has been sent to several who have not paid for the second volume. They will do us a favor by remitting for that as well as the present volume, as the terms must, for the future, be strictly adhered to. The publisher being responsible to Dr. Thomson, makes this the more necessary.

Agents will confer a favor by forwarding names and remittances as fast as received. We wish our friends to use their exertions for us, as we intend to make the Manual the leading, as well as the largest, periodical, in the botanic cause.

☞ **TO DISGUISE THE BAD TASTE OF MEDICINE.**—The Botanic Sentinel says that "those of the Thomsonian medicines which are disagreeable to the taste, may be rendered comparatively pleasant by the addition of a few drops of the oil of pennyroyal."

ANOTHER CONVERT FROM THE EDITORIAL RANKS. The annexed article is from the pen of the talented and well known editor of the *Morning News*—a daily paper recently commenced in this city. We have here another instance, that it is only necessary for an intelligent person to become ever so little *practically* acquainted with the system, to become in a similar degree friendly towards it, and sensible of its power and efficacy in the removal of disease and in the restoration of health. Without further preface, however, we submit the article to the attention of our readers with the remark, that it comes to us very opportunely, as this number of the Manual may find its way among some who have heretofore known no more of Thomsonism, than to suppose, not only that the patient was *boiled* till he *looked* like a lobster, but till he became a lobster in reality. Two or three stiff lobelia emetics, we imagine will generally prove entirely effectual in relieving persons of such ideas, and perhaps some others, peradventure worse ones. The picture here given of the Thomsonian practice is utterly devoid of any flattering gloss whatever.

A TASTE OF THOMSONISM.—We suppose that full half of our readers know absolutely nothing of what the Thomsonian practice is, and among them not a few who brand it as mere quackery and presumption. We confess we were very much of the same opinion ourself, and in our right mind no persuasion could have induced us to go within a stone's throw of one of the Thomsonian Infirmarys. We think, therefore, the following sketch may not be unacceptable to many.

A few days since, after having suffered some weeks from loss of appetite, want of sleep, and inflammation of the brain amounting to partial alienation of reason, a friend overpersuaded us to seek relief of Dr. (Thomsonian) CLARK, in Pleasant-street. We had business to attend to that we would rather have died than neglect, and would have purchased temporary ability to perform it at the cost of any amount of subsequent suffering. So, expecting to receive grievous ultimate bodily harm, to Dr. Clark we went, with little hope of benefit, but by great persuasion, just as a drowning man catches at a straw.

The first the Thomsonian doctor did, was to administer an injection; after which we were put into bed, covered up, and required to swallow an emetic, a potion our very soul loathes. It operated very quick and easily. We were then suffered to sit up and eat as much as we pleased of a plain, substantial supper, after which we were put to bed. We have forgotten to say that we were directed, in the course of the afternoon, to swallow a great many cups of "Thomsonian coffee," a beverage, we believe of cayenne pepper and other herbal decoctions. No sleep that night—great debility—wandering of the mind—awful headache—internal pains—cold sweats; so that at one time we really hoped that our last hour was come.

In the morning, with much ado, we made shift to crawl down stairs and were invited to partake of a common breakfast; but no—the gorge rose at it.—Then we were subjected to another injection, stripped and put into a box, much resembling a sentry box, where the steam began to rise through a grate in the bottom, till it reached a temperature of a hundred and ten degrees, as we ascertained by the thermometer inside. Excepting that we were half choked

by the steam, there was nothing very unpleasant in the operation—we have seen Indians come much nearer boiling, just for sport. There was a hole in the box to put the head out of.

In about ten minutes we came out, looking like a human lobster; a very ugly thing—and were hurried into a bed well warmed beforehand and closely tucked up. Hot bricks were put to our feet, and a sweat commenced, the like of which we never felt before. Another emetic was then administered, namely, the dreaded and abhorred *Lobelia*, which operated very violently for four hours, at intervals of half an hour. Other vegetable decoctions were administered to facilitate the operation. They were very hot and created a burning thirst, which we were allowed to assuage with milk porridge. Nevertheless we thought we should have vomited our heart up. What seemed strange, no food came up with the evacuations. By degrees all pain left us, and we now know that lobelia is not a poison, but no more like it than any other powerful emetic.*

The operation ended, we were again put into the steam box, and steamed as hotly as before, and while the steam was at the hottest, a bucket of water was emptied on our uncovered head, through the holes in the top of the box. The shock had nearly knocked us down. We then dressed, tied a napkin round our head, wrapped our precious person in a cloak, and sat down to roast beef, which we ate with the voracity of a famished wolf. We then lounged about, still closely wrapped up, and read the newspapers till supper time. Ate with a relish, and finally went to bed with no other pain than a heaviness about the eyes. The first half of the night our sleep was very bad. We imagined all manner of unimaginable things. Bull dogs flew at our throat, men ran at us with naked swords, we stood on the gallows with the rope round our neck—(no unlikely thing, by the way.) Anon we were a maniac in a mad-house among other lunatics—(again, not unlikely.) We started at every noise. The latter part of the night was sweet and pleasant, and we woke in the morning as well as ever we were in our life, save an exceeding debility.

This is the whole of the Thomsonian practice, as we were informed, and is applied, with more or fewer repetitions, to all cases. It cured us and others in the house, for various diseases, who avouched that they had derived like benefit from it. Mr. Clark stated that out of upwards of four thousand patients he had had, he had lost but one. We do not stop to enquire into the principles on which the system is founded. They may be false or true, and we opine still that they are fallacious; but if they operate well in practice, it suffices. We had rather be cured by the ignorant, than killed by the learned.

A sense of obligation compels us to say, that the house was neat and well arranged, that every thing necessary for the comfort of the patients was provided, and that the attention of Mr. Clark and his assistants was assiduous and unremitting.

* It is not so poison as *any* of the "scientific" emetics—it is not a poison *at all*. And we *defy* any and every one to produce proof to the contrary of our assertion, satisfactory to the mind of any unprejudiced person.—[Ed.]

☞ We have a copy of the "proceedings of the Thomsonian Medical Society of the Eastern District of New York," which will be published in our next.

ANOTHER "SUPPOSED MURDER BY A STEAM DOCTOR."—How despicably inconsistent are the *regulars* and their deluded supporters! 'Like a legion of devils,' they are continually crying out against the reformed practice, as an imposture, and at the same time they demand of it *infallibility*, in all cases whatever! They may lose, or, more correctly speaking, may *kill* nine out of ten of their *really sick* patients, and not a breath of censure or doubt is whispered in relation thereto—or at most, not *more* than *whispered*. But when any person who may practice, or even pretend to practice on the *anti-poison* system of Thomson, happens to be so unfortunate as not in all cases to preserve life, the occurrence is seized upon by the 'faculty' and their followers, and a greater hue and cry is raised, than would be caused by a dozen wilful and malicious murders.

Let it not be understood, that we deprecate any inquiry, having for its object the development of the Thomsonian practice, when honorably pursued. On the contrary, having no interest in sustaining a bad cause, we invite—we challenge scrutiny. We protest, however, against having our interested opponents, made also our *judges*—because their professional existence depends entirely upon the falsification of the truth,—and, perhaps we may add—*dog latin*. The 'faculty' have been challenged, over and over again, to put their "scientific skill" against the "ignorant quackery" of Thomsonians, in a fair trial; and one would think that, for very shame's sake, until they dare do this, they would be more wary of being guilty of their oft repeated misrepresentations and absolute falsehoods.

Amid the misrepresentations and the malicious clamor of these incorporated clans, we have, however, the gratification to believe they are hastening the downfall of their own *craft*, by the very measures which they originate against us: Do they suppose they are counteracting the natural antipathy of the community to the metallic poisons of the "regular" *materia medica*, by keeping alive the old slander that lobelia and cayenne are poisons? They will find it hard, we imagine, much longer to make the community believe that metallic poisons are any better or less baneful than vegetable ones—even on the ground that the vegetables used in Thomson's practice are poisonous, which is not in any instance true. The members of the mineral swarm, ought to be the last persons too, who should incite the public to post mortem examinations; or their occurrence may tend to display to the eyes of the astonished people many an "ugly job," not greatly redounding to the credit and skill of the 'doctors,'—a caution which the wiser members of the fraternity will know how to appreciate to the fullest extent.

With all their wisdom, however, the medical faculty fail at the point which has ever proved a stumbling block to all who have depended for their elevation on the credulity of the people. They forget, when they promulgate statements like those of their New Bedford brethren, that the days of witchcraft have gone by; and that a portion of the public at least, are not so easily deluded into the belief that their spasmodic exertions against Thomsonism originate solely out of regard for the public welfare.

But we have already too long detained the reader from the subject which has elicited the above remarks, which we will endeavor now to state as briefly as possible. In the Boston Herald of Oct. 18, we

find, under the head quoted at the beginning of this article, a statement of a recent death in a Thomsonian Infirmary at New York, as follows:

"A very great excitement has been caused at New York, as we learn from the Star, by the death of a young man named Tiberius G. French, aged 18, employed as a teacher in the Columbia College Grammar School, who died, it appear, in the Thomsonian Infirmary, in Howard-street, under the care and direction of one Richard K. Frost. From the rumors in circulation after the burial of the young man on Wednesday, his body was taken up on Monday, and examined by a coroner's inquest.

"The evidence given was, that the young man, probably deluded by the extravagant pretensions of those persons called quacks, went by his own determination, and against his brother's advice, to said infirmary, on Thursday week, for a slight cold, and was at once provided with a dose of what is called 'composition tea,' probably similar to the preparation, 'Black Drink,' given by the Seminole Indians previous to their corn dance. The next day he was put on the lobelia, and shut up in the box of the steam bath, which caused profuse perspiration. In this state he was suddenly cooled down 'a la Russia,' by a freezing shower bath—then blanketed, then lobeliated again and again, and heated and refrigerated, &c., till exhausted. In the course of this the deceased took *two pails full* of a compound consisting of bear berry, poplar, ginger, cloves, sumach, gold seed, cayenne, and lobelia, (the latter a powerful emetic, the rest violent stimulants,) &c."

[No one who knows *any* thing of the Thomsonian practice, will need be told that the preceding paragraph is a tissue of ignorant misrepresentation, from beginning to end.—ED. MAN.]

"This system," continues the account, "went on daily till Tuesday evening, when Dr. Cheeseman ["regular"] was called in, pronounced him past recovery, and he died in a few hours after. On the following day he was buried, but upon what certificate did not appear, as Dr. Cheeseman swore that when applied to for a certificate that the young man died of typhus fever, for which he had been treated, it was positively refused. An *anonymous* communication, sent to the coroner, led to the disinterment of the body, and the inquest held thereon. The verdict of the Jury:

"It is the opinion of this jury, that the death of the deceased was occasioned by a general congestion [congestion?] of the internal organs, and a complete prostration of the nervous system, produced by the administration of deleterious and improper medicines and other improper treatment, while in the Infirmary, under the direction of Richard K. Frost.

☞ "The verdict was rendered thus from the evidence of Drs. Cheeseman and D. L. Rogers, who examined the body after it was disinterred, and who *honestly and candidly* (!) said they would have considered their lives endangered by such treatment as was given to the deceased. In consonance with the verdict, the coroner, after consultation with Justice Hopson, issued and put in the hands of an officer for execution, his warrant, for the arrest of Mr. Frost."

Thus the reader has one side of the story: now for part of the other. In the New York Herald, of Oct. 19, we have the subjoined:

"THOMSONIAN QUACKERY.—Whereas much excitement has been raised in the public mind in rela-

tion to the death of Tiberius G. French, who expired at my house on 3d day (Tuesday,) 10th inst., this is therefore to request a suspension of public opinion, until I can furnish the details of the case, and a statement of the treatment the young man received *after* Dr. Cheeseman was called. The public will then be able to judge which course of treatment most indicates the *quack*,—for the physician to keep his patient in a gentle perspiration, or, while the patient is in such a state, for the physician to *throw off the clothes from the patient, open the doors and windows, and put out the fire, and thus expose the patient to the cold damp air of a stormy evening*, as was the treatment of Dr. Cheeseman in this case. The young man prior to this was in a comfortable state, but debilitated, and was able to walk from one bed to another about one hour previous to Dr. C. being called. After Dr. C. commenced his treatment by refrigerants, as above stated, the young man was thrown immediately into ague chills, cramps and convulsions, and death terminated his existence in about three hours after the commencement of this scientific treatment. The above facts can be proved by a number of witnesses.

“RICHARD K. FROST.”

A CASE FOR ADVICE.—J. L. Reynolds, Esq. is informed that his description of the case in which he requests advice, is very difficult to understand, owing to the very brief manner in which it is stated. The patient, we are told, has been treated two years by mineral quacks for a certain disease; of course he was well charged with poison. You did perfectly right to carry him through the courses, and you must *persevere*. Make no half way work. Was the *deafness* before or after you operated on him? We should think before from what you say; though not certain. There is not much wonder at the deafness however, after having had “six bottles of laudanum” injected into his head. Possibly by deadening the nerves, it has forever destroyed their power. You had better continue the treatment you have begun, and if you should succeed in curing the other symptoms, as you think the prospect for doing is fair, you must be satisfied. The head, if not incurable, will be relieved as the other symptoms are eradicated.

In the case of Piles, follow up the courses, and make thorough applications of the nerve ointment. Injections of No. 3, steeped, and a little of No. 2 in addition, must not be omitted. ☞ A little tallow used when going to bed, *prevents* piles and chafes in young and old.

Look out that you get genuine medicines. There is a great deal of spurious in your vicinity, it is said.

THOMSONIAN RECORDER—A QUESTION.—I have always supposed that I was the owner of one half of the Thomsonian Recorder. Will Mr. Curtis please inform me how he became proprietor of my half; and by what right he has changed the name of the paper, and struck off my name entirely, without my consent? If he has paid for it, I should like to know to whom, that I may look to them for the money.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

A NEW LIP has been ingeniously formed and placed on a boy in Scotland by a Mr. Liston. He cut a portion of skin from the boy's neck, and bringing it up, stitched it neatly to the adjoining skin, so as to form a substitute for the lip he had lost.

THE NEW ENGLAND BRANCH OF THE U. S. THOMSONIAN FRIENDLY BOTANIC CON- VENTION.

The convention of the above mentioned Branch will be holden, as heretofore notified, by Dr. Samuel Thomson, in Providence, R.I., on the second Monday in November, at Union Hall, at 10 o'clock, A.M. Delegates are requested to be there as near the time mentioned, as convenient.

It has been intimated to Dr. Thomson, that an unprincipled faction are preparing to fill up the Convention with members of their own party, for the purpose of either breaking up the Convention or having things all carried their own way. For the benefit of such honorable gentlemen, we copy the following test resolution adopted by, and inserted in the Constitution of the U. S. Society, as framed at the Convention held at Pittsburg, Pa., Oct. 21, 1833.

“The following test resolution was drafted and signed by all the members of the foregoing Convention, and is to be signed by the members of all future Conventions, as the only sure rule of keeping the wolves in sheep's clothing from imposing on our Convention.”—[See the *Address* of said Convention, signed by Dr. Hersey and B. Work.

“Resolved, That this Convention—feeling a desire to give to the world our most unequivocal testimony in favor of the Thomsonian System and Practice of Medicine—do, unhesitatingly, declare, that so far as our experience has extended, we have found the simple Thomsonian plan to produce all the effect toward removing disease, that we could reasonably expect from any. We know of no other medicines equal to those recommended by Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, and we firmly believe, taken as a whole, that none have yet been discovered. We therefore, consider it to be a duty we owe to the whole family of man, to recommend to them the Thomsonian system IN ITS SIMPLICITY AND PURITY, and to admonish them to look to and depend thereon, as the surest foundation yet known among men, on which they may safely build a confident hope of relief from the various forms of disease, or those ills consequent on disease, that flesh and blood are heir to. *We determine, therefore, that we will not admit into this institution, as a member, any person who in practice administers any mineral poison as medicine, or any vegetable medicine of deleterious quality, or goes contrary to the principles of the Thomsonian System, by vending and using anti-Thomsonian remedies; or affects to conceal from his Thomsonian brethren, any medical recipe, or nostrum, or mode of PREPARING or administering any medicine, whereby we might be enabled to alleviate the miseries, or mitigate the pains, or remove any form of disease, with which human beings may be afflicted.*”

And the gentlemen will also find on reference to the Constitution, that even before they can receive the test, they must be *Right holders*, and not have forfeited their rights.

The business of the Convention will be conducted according to the rules of the U. S. Convention.

☞ Public Lectures will probably be delivered in the evenings during the session of the Convention.

☞ TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.—Dr. Thomson authorizes us to state that all persons with whom he has had any difficulty will be heard in their defence, if they will give notice to that effect to any delegate of the Convention then and there present.

AN ADDRESS BY JAMES W. PRICE—Delivered before the friends of the Botanic System of Medicine, at Phillips's Mill Church, on the 9th Sept., 1837—published in *The News*, a paper printed at Washington, Georgia.

We have read this address with a good deal of pleasure. It is gratifying to witness the continued spread of the reformed system, and peculiarly so to witness the disinterested efforts of its supporters to extend the knowledge of it to the people, in defiance of the sneers of the self-sufficient ignorant, the misrepresentations and falsehoods of knaves, and the prejudices which they excite in those who are duped by their folly and falsehood.

We are already so much crowded with matter, that we shall be obliged to content ourselves with shorter and fewer extracts than we could wish, and to make them with preface as short as possible.

Speaking of the clamorous opposition which the system has met with at every step, from those who fatten on the ignorance of the people, Mr. Price has the following—ideas similar to which have often occurred to us.

"If the system of Thomson were an imposition, most assuredly this fact would have been brought to light and exposed to the gaze of the world, in the course of *forty-eight years*. And while there have been thousands crying out against it, proclaiming it to be an imposition, why have not these very enemies shown the dangers attending its progress, and buried it and its followers in the shades of oblivion? Another argument in favor of the system is the sum which Dr. Thomson's work [Narrative and Guide] commands. We behold a small book, containing only 400 pages, calling for the enormous sum of 20 dollars. It must be obvious to every candid mind, that if this work was of no value, and the contents a farce, that it could never have reached the *eleventh* edition, and been palmed upon an intelligent community as a work of merit—upon those who are ever jealous of their rights and untiring in preventing encroachments upon their private interests. But we hear not a word—the work continues to sell for the amount, and when purchased by an individual, has always been considered more than an equivalent for the amount given. These facts cannot be denied. Then where is the ground upon which our enemies base an objection? They condemn without a reason—they censure without a cause."

The following adds another item of "regular" testimony against the "regular" practice.

"Miner and Tully on Fevers, reasoning against the fatal practice of bleeding in putrid malignant fevers, observe that '*Oceans of falsehood have teemed from the Faculty on this subject,—for when they discover their error, they have not the magnanimity to confess it.*' And they relate an instance of a practitioner who had *sixty* patients, and saved them *all but one*. By *bleeding*? NO!! The only one he BLED, DIED!"

After presenting a variety of objections against the legalized system of quackery, in the admissions of many of its most august and learned professors, the address concludes—

"We might add testimony to testimony, to prove the fallacy of all the vain-boasting relative to the perfections of medical science; but we deem it unnecessary. *We have proof sufficient presented to us in their FAILURES!* Follow them to the bedside of the sick, and behold their difference of opinion upon the same

disease, and the mode of cure. Do any two ever agree? We think not. Yet they speak of a system—a *regular* plan of practice; but nine times in ten, they depart from this mode, and pursue a course which is the fruit of their own brain. If this be not the fact, why this difference of opinion? If they have a regular system, and are taught in the same schools, and upon the same principles, there ought to be one and the same course of treatment. But not unfrequently we hear them saying, 'We will try this and we will try that—and give this, and see how it operates; if it does not answer we will try something else,'—common expressions of the profession. A second physician condemns the first; the third condemns the second; and the fourth condemns all three. * * All these gentlemen have *diplomas*—all have been regularly bred to the profession—all have been tried by the same censors—and all pronounced competent. Why then this uncertainty, this guessing, and these errors of opinion with all? Is it not evidently because they have no certain and definite rule of judgement and action? Is it not evidently because their whole course of practice is but a series of doubtful experiments, with a multitude of agents, which may or may not succeed?

"Another objection which we have to the old practice is, the *mystery* with which it is enveloped. It is beyond the comprehension of the common people; hence they are compelled to entrust their lives with a physician who administers medicines of which they know but little, unless his generous feelings (contrary to his interest) may prompt him to inform them. And not unfrequently those medicines are the most deadly poisons, being hostile to the principles of life, and inductive of the most ruinous state of the system, rendering the individual helpless, and loathsome to himself and friends during his existence.—The people seem blind to their own safety and happiness, or they would not when sick, be found using the most deadly and dangerous poisons, under the impression that they are harmless in their operation, as well as beneficial to the health and the constitution. We are of opinion that more than two thirds of the broken down constitutions and emaciated countenances which are daily seen in our country have been produced by the operation of these deadly and destructive medicines. That medicine which may be converted into an instrument of death, cannot, we believe, restore health, or be harmless in its operation."

MERCURY.—A correspondent of the Charleston Courier furnishes the following extract for publication, requesting the particular attention of medical men to the subject—

Sir Anthony Carlisle to Dr. Parr.

August 5, 1837.

"Do not take Calomel, or any other preparation of mercury, under a notion of special operation on the liver. I am certain that such opinions are unfounded; and also, that mercury is *never taken with impunity.*"

IMPORTANT FACT.—The "Southern Religious Telegraph" states, that many observations and experiments have shown the beech tree to be a non-conductor of electricity. It is also said, that the Indians, at the approach of a thunder-storm, seek the shelter of a beech tree for protection.

A CHALLENGE.

The following is from the Boston Herald of Oct. 21, and explains itself. The article to which it refers we have already given on a preceding page.

MESSRS. EDITORS—Gents. My attention has been called to an article in the Herald of a late date, animadverting, in severe terms, upon the Thomsonian System of Medical Practice, in relation to a case which has recently occurred in the city of New York. I will not, at this time, say much in relation to the case in question, not knowing anything about it but what I gather from the papers, and not believing for good reasons, but little that I can learn through these sources, where the majority are so much prejudiced against the subject matter in hand. I observe, among other names, that of DAVID L. ROGERS, M.D., in connection with the subject alluded to; and believing that no one would have used his name without his authority, I wish to say a few words in relation to him, and the stand he has taken. It is said that when a person once gets his name up, he may lie in bed all day. Dr. Rogers *has* got his name up. The following throws a little light on some of his practice.

Some seven or eight years since, then following the seas, or in other words, *a sailor*, I had the misfortune to be injured by a fall on shipboard. Being disabled from duty, and, in fact, being so injured that life became a burden, I obtained, as I had a right, admittance into the Hospital at New York. The whole medical department was, at that time, under the supervision of Valentine Mott, M.D., David L. Rogers, M.D., and Alexander Stevens, M.D. The students who attend and experiment upon the patients to complete their *medical* education, I have nothing to say about here. I have only to do with Mott, Rogers, and Stevens. After the young fry had experimented upon me some three or four weeks, Dr. Mott assisting, and concluding it rather a difficult case, agreed to leave it over till Dr. Rogers's turn would come.* When Dr. Rogers examined me, he said I must be relieved or die; and said also that a surgical operation must be performed. I told him I saw the necessity of the case, and wished him to perform it. He said he was afraid to undertake it, although to relieve certain symptoms, he has left no less than *nine* marks of the lancet on my arms, not to mention leeches every other day for three weeks; with hot baths [to make the blood run] till I fainted, and indeed, once narrowly escaped drowning in the bathing tub. His month thus passed, and Dr. Stevens should have come in, but was prevented by sickness. Dr. Rogers officiated for him, and I had to groan a month longer in misery. His object seemed to be, to me, *to make me die*, that they might be rid of the trouble. I had nearly 'kicked the bucket,' when Dr. Stevens became able to visit the Hospital. I had wished Dr. Rogers to perform the operation, having no confidence in Mott, for I had *seen* him totally destroy the eye of a fellow patient in the every day operation of removing a film. Dr. Rogers having virtually told me that he could not cure me, and having drained nearly the last

drop of my heart's blood, I looked to Dr. Stevens for relief. He, unwell as he was, immediately performed the operation at my earnest solicitation, and succeeded beyond even his own expectation, though sneered at and ridiculed by a large portion of the students, who, I am glad to know, have since awarded to him the praise he merits, both as a surgeon and a gentleman. The foregoing is a fair specimen of the manner David Lee Rogers, M.D., obtained his notoriety. If it argues any thing for him, I cannot perceive it. And as for his story, about the deleterious effects of the Thomsonian remedies, it is too late in the day to make a hue and cry. When you do it, the people examine the case. And woe to the mineral system when the people *examine* both sides.

I have been relieved by the Thomsonian remedies in an hour, for the same complaint that D. L. Rogers has bled me three times, and put me into a warm bath till I was taken out for dead, and not relieved. These things tell a story not to be misunderstood.

In conclusion, I challenge David L. Rogers, M.D., and through him the New York or Boston Medical Faculty, to meet me on this ground. I will meet them and will allow them to prescribe for me a dose of any Thomsonian Medicines of double the quantity that I prescribe to them of such as they use—the same to be taken on the spot, and continued at regular intervals till but one of us is left. Or if either backs out, it shall be at a forfeiture of from *one to ten thousand dollars*. If they choose to meet it on this ground, I am ready to enter into a contract for the faithful performance of my part. If not, let them hide their heads for shame!

Any of their abettors will be met on the same terms. Newspaper Editors, in particular, who are so SURE that *Lobelia* is a DEADLY POISON, are informed that I will meet them,—always omitting the Editors of the Post and Atlas,—if they wish to back up their opinions with something more solid than wind, and take FOUR parts of *Lobelia* to ONE which they shall take of *Tartar Emetic* or *Tartrite of Antimony*. Some of them need purging, and now is the chance to do it, to the tune of *ten thousand dollars*, IF THEY DARE.

WARD No. 4.

"We insert the above (say the Editors of the Herald,) as the commencement of our exposition of the Thomsonian practice. From the latter paragraph, it will be perceived, how its advocates are inclined to 'go it to the death;' but let it not be supposed that we esteem the challenge any thing whereto a true test may hang. That our correspondent may be capable of swallowing a large quantity of the Thomsonian medicine is no proof of its virtues—and we have seen men who could eat fire, and even survive after entering a red hot oven! More anon."

To this an answer was returned, which, together with what may follow, we shall hereafter copy.

CURE FOR THE PILES.—Steep Beaver root, (sometimes called Cow Lily) and drink the liquor. It is found in marshy coves of ponds and streams. We have known it to give speedy relief in many cases, and think for its efficacy it ought to be known to the public. We are not responsible for the above.

* The three *head doctors*, as they were called, had each to serve a month in turn; probably for the benefit of the students,—as the patients seldom got any.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Lewiston, September 15, 1837.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANUAL:

I do not expect that I shall add any thing new, as I have been in practice but a short time. I thought however, that it might be encouraging to you to be assured that there are a few Thomsonians in Maine, who are trying to show the world the healing power of the Thomsonian medicines. [It is encouraging, Dr.—Ed.] Thomsonians here, as elsewhere, are grievously traduced, but we are all willing to bear the burden with our revered Dr. Thomson. The M.D. *craft* is in danger—quite a sufficient reason to induce them to slander us. The *regular* in this town has had the whole run for many years; and the first case that I had after leaving Hallowell, was one of *Canker Rash and Chicken Pox*—the patient being a girl, six years of age, whom the M.D. had given up to die. When I commenced giving her medicine she could not move so much as a finger; but before I had finished the first course she recovered the use of her arms in a great degree. I continued to attend her until she completely recovered. I experienced much difficulty in administering the medicine to this patient, but its excellent effects when taken, were so immediately apparent, that I persevered. I mention this for the encouragement of those who have children to attend upon. I think this one of the most desperate cases of sickness I ever saw, and I have seen not a few where death seemed inevitable.—The medicines I used were some of Dr. Thomson's own preparing. No spurious articles would have produced this cure; and if practitioners would procure their medicines of Dr. Thomson, when they would be sure of their purity, they would have no trouble in making it produce the effect desired.

Yours, OCTAVUS WRIGHT.

Marlborough, Chester Co., Pa., Sept. 26, 1837.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANUAL:

In your reviews of the address of *Stebbins*, delivered in December last, you have committed several errors which it will be well to correct. In the first place, in noticing the when and where this votary of of medical mysticism delivered himself of this very *extra-ordinary* production, you presume that it was published by authority of the Chester County "Cabinet." It was no doubt intended by the author, or those interested in getting it published, as it was published by subscription, that being delivered where it was, to notice the place in the title, would give it some character,—they being fully sensible, that to put it before the public as it was delivered, or rather read, (the whole being made up of a controversy which took place several years ago in one of our county papers,) would have brought upon it that indignant rebuke which a tissue of such contemptible stuff so justly merits. But for the honor of the "Cabinet," and to exonerate them from any censure in consequence of this attempt to make it appear that they sanctioned the compilation of *Stebbins*, I would simply state, that their hall, in the Borough of West Chester, is held for rent, to any and every person who may apply, for the purpose of holding public meetings, lectures, &c. It was rented for *Stebbins* by his friends; and the address *was not* published by "authority of the Cabinet." And I am credibly informed that *not five* members attended it.

Natural philosophy and the sciences *have* made some advances in the Borough as well as the County of Chester. In proof of this, it is only necessary to point to the rapid progress which the *science of Thomsonism* is making in every section of the county. Pennsylvania is generally denominated the "Keystone State," and from what has transpired in regard to the practice of the immortal Thomson, within the last six months, in this county, it may be justly styled the "key-stone county" in the great and glorious arch of Thomsonism.

You also, in your comments, style him an M. D. This also is an error; he *never* graduated, and the only claim he has to the title of Doctor, is, that through the liberality of some of his friends, he was enabled to attend a course of lectures in one of the medical institutions in Philadelphia; therefore, had you given him his proper title, you would have termed him a, "half price pill-box," and not have coupled with his name the imposing initials of Doctor of Medicine. His extreme itching for notoriety, which has led him to oppose the Thomsonian practice, has rendered him so odious to a large portion of the people of this county, that he has been obliged to quit that part of the county which he located in, when this "mighty" address was delivered. Four years have only elapsed since this illegitimate pretender to medical science, was a journeyman tailor; and to judge from the popular expression of opinion in regard to his Thomsonophobic address, it will not be long before he will be under the necessity of resuming the thimble, thread and needle, and forever bid adieu to the pill-box and lancet, which latter has been so frequently wielded to the destruction of many a valuable life.

Thomsonism was first introduced into this county about seven years ago: it has been gradually progressing ever since, though within the last year it has spread with unexampled rapidity. No reform, Christianity alone excepted, has ever made such advances.

"Thomsonism," as was justly observed by a friend of mine a short time since, "has a tendency to warm and expand those finer feelings of the human heart, which lead a person to sacrifice every other consideration, for the purpose of rescuing a fellow being from a premature grave." In proof of this you have only to refer to those rapid strides which the practice is making in those neighborhoods where the services of a practitioner cannot be obtained—the fidelity of its adherents, and the willingness to render assistance in time of need.

I observed in your last number a request that your agents would write for the "Manual," but were the situation of many of them similar to my own, you would have but few correspondents. I have found time to write you this, only, in consequence of my being confined to the house by an injury received a short time since by being thrown from my sulky. Morning, noon and night, am I ardently engaged in this great and growing cause. In the controversy which we have recently had with the regulars in this county, I will add, that all my articles were penned by the glimmer of the midnight lamp. No other time could be found to devote to such purposes, and even this was sometimes denied.

With my best wishes for your success, and that the third volume of the Manual will be issued under more favorable auspices, and with an accession of subscribers, correspondents, and readers,

I remain respectfully yours, A. WEEKS.

Extract from a letter, dated

Philadelphia, September 21, 1837.

To DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Esteemed Sir—I send you the following list of subscribers to the Manual. * * * I assure you we can raise a pretty strong force of Thomsonians here, in none of whom does there exist one particle of Howardism, or any other mongrelism. Of six practitioners, four, I believe, entirely discard the use of purgatives. There is a complete division here between the Howardites and Thomsonians; and we think there is more danger to be apprehended from those pretended friends to medical reform, than from open enemies. I was at one time in favor of a union between Thomsonians and Howardites, but have become convinced that that course would not do; there is too wide a difference between them to admit of it.

Respectfully, J. W. COMFORT.

Extract from a letter, dated

Charlemont, October 11, 1837.

To DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Sir—I have been in practice in this place about one year and a half, and have cured all who *are willing to be cured*. Indeed, success beyond my most flattering expectations, has crowned my labors. I have followed *strictly* the Thomsonian practice, and I need not tell you have found it sufficient to cure where a cure could be effected *by any means*. An M. D. in this county, (said to be Dr. Williams of Deerfield, and one of the very *elite* of the profession,) some time last June commenced an unprovoked attack on the Thomsonian system. I thought the opportunity to defend it too good to pass unnoticed, and obtained the columns of the same paper, (Gazette & Mercury, published in Greenfield,) for the purpose. I have not time to enlarge—suffice it to say, it is the opinion of unprejudiced judges, that “Williams is completely used up.” The *defence* is not yet closed. The 4th No. came out this week. I intend to *write* so long as the publisher will *print*.—I would that Thomsonians endeavor as much as practicable to make the “popular newspapers” the vehicles of information on this vital subject, as few, comparatively, read the Botanic journals. Such communications should be free from bitter invective, and only exhibit the truth in its simplicity.

Yours, &c. MARTIN BRYANT, T. B. P.

EFFECT OF CULTIVATION.—[Extract from Paris.] “If there be any who feel sceptical” upon the effect of cultivation in changing the properties and appearance of vegetables and fruits, “let him visit the fairy bowers of horticulture, and he will there perceive that her magic wand has not only converted the tough, coriaceous covering of the almond into the soft and melting flesh of the peach; but that by her spells, the sour sloe has ripened into the delicious plum, and the austere crab of our woods into the golden pippen; that this again has been made to sport in endless variety, emulating in beauty of form and color, in exuberance of fertility, and in richness of flavor, the rarer productions of warmer regions and more propitious climates! In our culinary vegetables, the same progressive melioration and advancement may be traced: thus has the acid and disagreeable *Apium graveolens* been changed into delicious celery, and the common colewort into the more useful cabbage.”

MAGOON vs. FOWLER.—In consequence of something which previously appeared in the Manual, the writer of the following claimed its insertion in the last number, as an act of justice towards him. From some cause unknown to us, it did not appear, and it consequently is published here, on the principle of what is considered *fair play*. Of the real merits of the case, we know but little, and desire to know no more. We hope this will be the last of the matter—for the credit of all concerned.

To DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Dear Sir—Since I wrote you last, I noticed in the “Manual,” and on extra sheets, a letter directed to yourself, signed by Stephen F. Fowler. Now I consider that communication, as well as its author, too mean and contemptible to receive any notice. But the public, not knowing the character of said Fowler, might be led to give credence to what I do not hesitate to pronounce a malicious falsehood—a sheer fabrication, got up by way of retaliation, and with an express design to prejudice the public against me and my practice. The foundation of his malice against me, arose from the fact that we undertook to drive a bargain, and I, learning his character to be as mean as his scurrilous article would indicate, refused to close it. This enraged him, and no doubt prompted him to write his doggerel poetry, &c.; all which proves him to be too hollow headed and rotten hearted to receive a reply from any decent man. Excuse me, dear sir, for intruding myself upon the notice of the readers of your valuable paper. My only object is to disabuse the public from such vile misrepresentations.

Respectfully yours, &c. NATH’L S. MAGOON.

In addition to what we have said above, we wish to have it distinctly understood, that hereafter no *personal controversies* whatever will be admitted into the Manual—nothing, in fact, in which the public is not unquestionably interested. Therefore, no reply to the above will be admitted, and nothing like that to which it refers. We are instructed to say this, by the Doctor himself.—[ED. MAN.]

BUTTER.—It would undoubtedly be beneficial to the health of thousands to dispense with this article—particularly the rancid and nauseous stuff that fills our markets during the winter season. For children especially, honey is far preferable. The free use of butter and other oily substances, not only tends to relax the stomach and impede its action, but to induce a debility of the solids, which paves the way to many maladies. Butter is rather a gross food, and more fit for the active and laborious, than the sedentary and delicate. But in itself it is not near so hurtful as when combined with certain other things. For example, bread made with butter is almost indigestible, and pastries of every kind are little better; their liberal use rarely fails to disorder the stomach.

The following is going the rounds of the newspapers, and may be worthy of attention.

KREOSOTE.—The papers are full of puffs on the virtues of kreosote as a cure for tooth-ache. We would caution our readers not to tamper with this dangerous extract. Unless used with the greatest care, disastrous consequences will follow. We know a lady whose face was partially paralyzed by using it. She nearly lost her voice. It is highly antiseptic, and is, when dropped upon the tongue, absorbed almost immediately by the system. It is generally used with four hundred parts of water.

☞ TO THE PUBLIC. ☞

My attention has been frequently called to an advertisement of "E. LARABEE," of Baltimore, and the reasons asked why I permitted him to go on in his wholesale game of trespass and fraud, without taking any notice of him. Were it not that the lives as well as property of the community are in danger by his impositions, I should have nothing to say. But as it now is, I wish the people to read the following and ponder well the facts:

E. Larabee comes out with a flaring advertisement stating that he prepares, wholesale and retail, *Thomsonian Botanic Medicines*. Yet he never had any authority from me to do any such thing; and I claim to be the original discoverer, (and he concedes it by using my name to make his articles sell)—and I certainly am the patentee of the medicines bearing my name. If, then, he has no authority from me, did he come honestly by such right? Knowing that his own name alone would not bear him out in this iniquity, he borrows the names of five redoubtable individuals, purporting to be a "Committee of Inspection"—for what, think ye? Why, to inform the public that E. Larabee successfully counterfeits my medicines. And where did this "Committee of Inspection" come from? They say, or he says for them, that they were appointed by a Society—but who can tell of who or what this Society consists—probably of the few who have tried for years to get my sanction to their iniquitous proceedings, but without success.

This "Committee of Inspection," who pretend to know so much about medicines, must certainly have a fine business to attend to, if they can neglect their several callings of *shoemaker, blacksmith, painter, bricklayer, and carpenter*, (good honest callings, by the way,) to inspect all the medicines that E. Larabee sends forth; and if they do not inspect all, do they do that which their certificate purports that they do? If E. Larabee has need of their testimony, and thinks, or knows, that his own name will not go down with the public, without the aid of a "Committee of Inspection," shall he be trusted in compounding medicines, where his main chance of profit lies in adulterating or using spurious articles? The fact is, the profit is much smaller in manufacturing or vending genuine medicines, than in making use of the spurious trash with which the country is filled. Hence E. Larabee's success in selling. I have letters on hand from different part of the South and West, complaining of the quantities of spurious and bad medicines that find their way to those places; and am weekly receiving similar complaints. In several instances, I can trace these articles to their proper source,—E. Larabee,—his "Committee of Inspection" to the contrary, notwithstanding. If these medicines, or rather nostrums, have a bad effect, who would think of blaming E. Larabee? No one. The Thomsonian System, and through that myself, has to bear all the blame.

My only object in saying the above being to put the people on their guard, especially when the lives of their families as well as themselves, are in jeopardy, I will therefore briefly state, that I have never, directly or indirectly, given any authority or leave to E. Larabee to prepare or sell Thomsonian Medicine, and know him only as an impostor. That the public may be satisfied in respect to the

nostrums he sells, and manufactures, I respectfully ask them to compare any article sold by E. Larabee with those which I prepare, and they will need no assistance to see the difference between the genuine and spurious. GODFREY MEYER & Co., Pratt-street, Baltimore, can also show them the genuine articles of which the compounds are made, and they can compare them with the articles compounded by E. Larabee.

I have always used my best endeavors to have my system diffused in its simplicity and purity; and shall always contend against impostors and swindlers, who, for the sake of enriching themselves, care not what distress and misery they bring upon their fellow beings, provided their own ends are answered. I shall however, have the satisfaction of knowing that I have done my duty, by preventing, as far as I am able, the public from being imposed upon. I have spent my life for the good of mankind, and shall continue to do for them all that I can, and warn them against all the evil that I may see in their way.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, Oct. 10, 1837.

QUACKERY.—We of the Botanic school, are annoyed with pretenders, perhaps, as much as the knights of the lancet: but we have one pleasing reflection, that the botanic remedies, even in the hands of an unlettered man, cannot destroy life with the same certainty that *mineral poisons* will when administered by a *learned blockhead* from a medical college.

NANNY BUSH OR BLACK HAW.—This shrub grows in most parts of the country. It rises from five to eight feet high. The bark is very rough, and of a drab grey color; leaves long, berries hang in clusters, and turn black after frost. It grows in marshes and low pastures. The bark is said to be an excellent tonic, and superior to the Peruvian bark, and may be used for all the purposes to which the latter is applied.

"How do you do Jack!—What ails you, man?" inquired one friend of another. "Oh! my dear fellow," he replied, "I have got a terrible bilious disorder." "Indeed," said the first, "I did not know before that you were subject to bile."—"Bile," said he, "oh no, but I am to a heap of *bills* which I cannot pay, and if this is not a *billious* disorder, pray what is it?"

NEW AGENT FOR THE MANUAL.

Dr. Aaron Comfort, 295 Market-street, Philadelphia.

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 1st and 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*

By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, *Printer and Publisher.*

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.

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Address DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, (*post paid*.) No. 40, Salem-street, Boston.

Young & Co. 9

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME III.]

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 2.]

[Original.]

THOMSONISM.

AN ACROSTIC.

THOMSON'S new system doth simply explain,
How people can cure their sickness and pain :—
Of the four elements,* justly combined,
Man's body is formed—endowed with a mind.
System—new practice—without any pelf,
Originated with Thomson himself:
No poison 's allowed—it is strongly condemned,—
"I'll have *no bleeding*," says Thomson our friend.
As *life* is maintained by the power of *heat*,
No cold, deathly drugs should we ever eat :
In nature's pure soil, do "roots and herbs" grow,
Sufficient to cure all curable woe :—
Min'rals we need not, wherever we go.

STEPHEN F. FOWLER.

Milton, Mass., July 25, 1837.

* Modern chymists say that there are *fifty* elements and upwards; but the precise number is not known; and, indeed, they say that the simple elementary substances of nature will, probably, never be discovered. But the division of Thomson into four, namely, Fire, Air, Earth and Water, agrees with all the *ancient* philosophers and chymists, and fully answers his (Thomson's) purpose. And be the precise number what it may, still they are all embraced in these four.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE CONVENTION OF THE FRIENDLY THOMSONIAN BOTANIC SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES, AT AN ADJOURNED MEETING HELD IN THE CITY OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY, AT DR. M. L. LEWIS'S INFIRMARY, OCTOBER 16, 1837.

On motion, Dr. HUGH BARNES was appointed Chairman; whereupon the Convention went into an election of officers for the ensuing year, in accordance with the Constitution; and, on the votes being counted, the following gentlemen were found to be duly elected:

Dr. GODFREY MEYER, of Baltimore, Md., *President*.

H. WOOD, of Columbus, Ohio, *Secretary*.

Dr. M. L. LEWIS, of Louisville, Ky., *Treasurer*.

The President, on being conducted to the chair, delivered an appropriate address to the members, enjoining upon them unity, harmony, and a strict adherence to the true Thomsonian principles in their practice.

The President then presented the following communication from Dr. Samuel Thomson, the founder of the System, which was, on motion, read and made a part of the proceedings of this Convention.

To the Sixth United States Thomsonian General Convention, to be holden at Louisville, October 16, 1837.
FRIENDS AND FELLOW-CITIZENS:

The period of your meeting having arrived, it gives me pleasure to address you on the occasion, and it would add much to that pleasure for me to meet you in Convention, which I would do if it were consistent with my other obligations.

Since the last Convention, the Thomsonian system

and practice, and the sale of medicine have much increased. They both continue to extend their usefulness to benefit mankind, although in many instances the human family have suffered from abuses, both from unauthorized agents who are ignorant of the pure Thomsonian medicines, and others who purchase bad materials, and make spurious medicines, for the purpose of speculation, and thereby destroy the character and influence of the practice, and deprive mankind of its healing benefits.

The correction of the above wrongs, influenced me to call the first General Convention. In your deliberations and decisions in the several sessions you have held, I have found great support, and the public much benefit.

I deem it of the utmost importance to the practice, and the health of mankind, that your deliberations and actions should be continued annually in General Convention, at such time and place as in your wisdom you may direct. I cannot suppress the anxious hope that you will not discontinue your annual meetings, for I am of the opinion that the welfare of our fellow beings would be seriously injured in the before named manner, by losing the control you have over them, in any instance of abuse which may be brought before you. I have no doubt your wisdom will be ample to retain our practice in a sound and healthy state.

I hope I shall be able to meet you in person at your next annual convention.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to draft an address to the people of the United States.

Whereupon, H. Barnes, H. Wood, M. L. Lewis, A. Moore, and J. W. Griest, were appointed said committee.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to receive all communications to this Convention, and report thereon.

Drs. Wilson, Curtis, and Hutchinson, were appointed said committee.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That all members of the Friendly Botanic Society now present, be invited to take a seat in this Convention, and participate in the deliberations thereof.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the *Test Resolution* be presented to the members for their signatures.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That the members residing in the city of Louisville, be a committee to procure a place and make arrangements for the delivery of Lectures on the Thomsonian System of Medicine, (during the sitting of the Convention,) to the citizens of Louisville, and that Dr. Curtis be requested to deliver a lecture this evening.

On motion, the Convention adjourned to meet at 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Tuesday, October 17. The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The committee appointed to examine communications addressed to this Convention, reported that

they had examined communications from the following Societies and individuals, viz. One from the Branch Society of Philadelphia city; one from the Indiana State Society; one from the Evansville Branch Society, which they recommend to be read and placed among the proceedings of this Convention; also a communication from Dr. D. L. Terry, which they recommend to be made a part of the proceedings of this Convention, so far as to include the first resolution—the second being superseded and rendered impracticable by the Constitution that governs this Society.

On motion, a committee consisting of Drs. H. Barnes, A. Curtis, I. Wilson, J. Trueblood, and T. W. Mitchell, were appointed to investigate the charges against *E. B. Reed*, and make report thereon at 3 o'clock, P. M. of this day.

On motion, H. Wood, D. H. Cadwallader, I. Wilson, J. Trueblood, and T. W. Mitchell, were appointed a committee to devise some plan to be recommended to the Branch Societies for the reorganization of the Convention and the formation of State Societies.

The committee appointed to investigate the charges against *E. B. Reed*, report that he retain his seat.

The committee appointed to recommend some plan to the Branch Societies for a reorganization of the Convention, made the following report, which was adopted:

The committee appointed to take into consideration the propriety of recommending to the several Branch Societies a reorganization of the United States Thomsonian Convention, beg leave to make the following report: Your committee, after mature deliberation, are fully satisfied, from the communications made to this Convention, and from the observations of the members here present, that some alteration should be made in the manner of choosing delegates to attend said Convention. The extent of territory embraced within its limits, renders it, we may say, impossible to have every section of so wide an extended country equally represented, unless a regular and systematic plan be adopted throughout, and means devised for defraying the expenses of said delegates while going to, attending, and returning from said Convention. The object of your committee is, and such we believe is the anxious wish and desire of this Convention, to devise some means whereby a more full and equal representation may be had in all future National Conventions. We deem them of great importance to the advancement and final success of the Thomsonian system of medicine; and we have not one particle of doubt, should a practicable plan be devised, but that the justness and righteousness of our cause will infuse a spirit among its believers and advocates that will cause a full attendance of delegates to the Convention at all times hereafter. And, to effect so desirable an object, your committee know of no better plan than the adoption of State Conventions to be composed of delegates chosen by the Branch Societies located in the respective States. Therefore, we would present the following resolution, to be recommended to the several Branch Societies, to be passed upon and forwarded to the next Annual Convention:

Resolved, That the several Branch Societies throughout the United States appoint delegates to attend a State Convention in the respective States, and form a State Society which shall meet annually;

and it shall be the duty of said delegates to the several State Societies, once in two years, at their meeting, to appoint as many delegates to attend a National Convention as such State is entitled to members in Congress, which National Convention shall be held once in two years. And it shall be the duty of the several State Societies, through the Branches or otherwise, to devise means to defray the expenses of the delegates while going to, attending upon, and returning from said Convention.

On motion, it was *Resolved*, That a committee be appointed to draw up an address to Dr. Thomson, expressive of the views of this Convention.

Drs. A. Curtis, I. Wilson, T. W. Mitchell, T. P. Compton and A. Cosler, were appointed said committee.

Resolved, That when this Convention adjourn, it shall adjourn to meet in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Monday of October, 1838.

On motion, the Convention adjourned till 3 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Wednesday, October 18. The Convention met pursuant to adjournment.

The committee appointed to prepare an address to the Thomsonians, reported the following, which was accepted by the Convention.

TO THE THOMSONIANS THROUGHOUT THE UNITED STATES.

Gentlemen: Another year has rolled around—another Convention of the Friendly Botanic Society has been held; and we feel happy and much gratified in stating to you the fact that the Thomsonian system of healing the sick, has increased with a rapidity unparalleled. The inventor and founder of this system still lives; and the principles and practice first taught by him, have been diffused throughout a widely extended and populous country, and have been adopted by some two or three millions of people as their only hope and safety in removing disease and preserving their health. And is it not truly an astonishing fact, when we reflect, that a single individual, by the strength of his own gigantic mind, wholly unassisted by the discoveries of others, perfects and brings to maturity a system, and lives to see that system adopted by his fellow beings; and this a system too, almost directly in opposition and at variance with the views and opinions entertained on the subject for thousands of years previous? This has been done by Samuel Thomson, and none other. No other person has ever lived to see such tremendous, and at the same time benevolent effects result to society from his own exertions. Most benefactors to the human family have died long before the benefit of their labors has been felt or appreciated by the people. Not so with Samuel Thomson. He has lived to see a great portion of a large nation benefited by his discoveries. His system is not merely ideal and imaginary. We have all seen, felt, and experienced its salutary influence and effects, and know how to appreciate its worth. Then let us do all in our power to hand down to posterity this invaluable system in its simplicity and purity, and frown upon every attempt, let it come from what quarter it may, to mystify, adulterate, or destroy, its simplicity and purity. To accomplish this, much can be done by your General Convention, State and Branch Societies. All mal-practice, adulterating medicines, &c., can be detected and exposed. And we would par-

ticularly call your attention to a resolution that has passed this Convention, to alter the mode of electing delegates to attend said Convention. We deem it important that some measure should be adopted whereby a more full and equal representation may be had hereafter, and hope you will all take up this subject in your different Branch Societies, and act upon the same as your wisdom and judgement may dictate.

The committee appointed to address a letter to Dr. Samuel Thomson, made their report, which was accepted by the Convention.

[The following was accordingly forwarded to the Doctor.—ED. MAN.]

MUCH ESTEEMED AND VALUED FRIEND:

Sir—It is with the most profound respect that we address you. Our feelings may be likened to those of children towards a parent. You are indeed our father in Medicine; such we esteem you; for like a good father, you have given to each and every one of us, an invaluable legacy, beyond all price. It is not our intention to flatter; for that we have no object, nor do we believe it would be acceptable to you; but our object is, in accordance with the resolution of the Convention, to express our views relative to the system of medicine discovered by you, and to assure you that our confidence in the same is unshaken; that we will make all the exertions in our power to keep it in its simplicity and purity, as you have requested in your communication to us at this meeting. We have found it fully to answer the purposes for which you have recommended it, and shall do all in our power to extend it among mankind, being fully convinced that by so doing we are conferring an everlasting blessing upon the human family.

Accept of our most ardent wishes for your health and prosperity.

(Signed by order of the Convention.)

GODFREY MEYER, *Pres't.*

H. WOOD, *Secretary.*

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the President and Secretary, for the faithful manner in which they have discharged their duties.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to Drs. Moore and Lewis, for their attention in providing places for holding the Convention, and for the delivery of lectures.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be tendered to Dr. Curtis, for the able lectures delivered by him to the public, during the sitting of the Convention.

Resolved, That the Secretary of this Convention be requested to furnish a copy of our proceedings to the several Thomsonian periodicals in the United States for publication.

On motion, the Convention adjourned, to meet in the city of Philadelphia, on the third Monday of October, 1833.

GODFREY MEYER, *President.*

H. WOOD, *Secretary.*

MAXIM.—Elevated posts in government are like steep rocks, only accessible to eagles and reptiles.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE THOMSONIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK.

Agreeable to a resolution of the Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of New York, the members of the Friendly Botanic Society in the Eastern Section of this State convened at Poughkeepsie on Tuesday the 3d of October, 1837, for the purpose of forming a Society, to be auxiliary to the State Thomsonian Medical Society.

Doct. JOHN THOMSON, of Albany, was called to the chair, and Doct. S. W. FRISBIE, of New York, appointed secretary *pro tem.*

After the object of the meeting had been duly announced, and the proceedings of the last meeting of the State Society, together with its constitution, had been read,—

It was unanimously *Resolved*, That the meeting do now organize into a society, to be called the "*Eastern District Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of New York.*"

It was *Resolved*, That Dr. A. C. Draper, of Philadelphia, be invited to take a seat as an honorary member of this Society.

Doctors Lapham, Gardner, Sweet, Draper, and Vail, were appointed a committee to nominate officers; and Doctors Thomson, Draper, Frisbie, P. F. Sweet, and S. B. Vail, were appointed a committee to draft a constitution for this Society.

It was *Resolved*, That Dr. Draper be requested to deliver an address before the Society at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

The committee appointed to nominate officers reported the following:

For President, Doct. ABIAL GARDNER, of Hudson.

For Vice President, Doct. JOHN G. SWEET, of New York.

For Treasurer, Doct. JOHN THOMSON, of Albany.

For Corresponding Secretary, Doct. S. W. FRISBIE of New York.

For Recording Secretary, Doct. A. N. BURTON, of Albany.

For Censors, { Dr. P. F. SWEET, of New York,
" JOHN THOMSON, of Albany,
" THOS. LAPHAM, of Poughkeepsie.

A committee of five were appointed to confer with Dr. Draper on the subject of lecturing, viz. Mr. S. O. Hoyt, Daniel Brown, Dr. T. Lapham, Dr. P. Lapnam, and Dr. S. Gregory.

Adjourned till 2 o'clock.

Met pursuant to adjournment.—Agreeably to a resolution of the Society in the morning, Dr. Draper gave a very animated and interesting address. He reminded them of the importance of the occasion which had called them together, and the righteousness of the cause in which they were engaged. He congratulated the Society on the bright prospects before the friends of medical revolution,—complimented them for their zeal in the spreading of rational principles, and diffusing a knowledge of a common sense practice,—entreated them to let no obstacle damp their ardor or paralyze their exertions,—but exhorted them to a union of purpose and concert of action in breaking the despotic chains which have enslaved the people by a pampered, proud and rich medical aristocracy. He adverted to the various conflicting theories which have agitated the medical schools for centuries, and contrasted them with the Thomsonian system of practice, which is based upon

successful experience, reared by the mighty influence of truth, and sustained by the unalterable laws of nature.

Among the various means for diffusing a knowledge of our system, there are three (said the Doctor), which stand pre-eminent: 1st, The formation of societies. By frequently meeting together, and relating important cases of practice, the benefits of the system become more firmly fixed, confidence is increased, social feelings are generated, friendships and attachments cemented, which render societies powerful instruments in dissipating error, and erecting the standard of truth.

The 2d means is by papers and periodicals. He contended that papers designed as a medium of information to the people should uniformly be conducted by experienced practitioners; men whose knowledge of our remedies, and the various forms of disease is derived from the bedside of the sick; men whose knowledge of medicines and disease is derived only from books and a few theoretical notions of their own, should never be patronized as public teachers. A teacher, (said he,) whether an editor or lecturer, one who is to instruct the people in the healing art, should be a practical man, one whose information concerning disease has been acquired from actual observation, and knowledge of remedies gained from clinical practice.

The 3d means was by public lectures.

He concluded, in a style of eloquence, by enjoining on all, the necessity of making a sacrifice of selfish considerations, and marching steadily and resolutely forward to accomplish a medical revolution. Our cause, (he added,) is emphatically the cause of the people. Victory has already marked our footsteps, and a glorious triumph will inevitably be the reward.

It was then *Resolved*, unanimously, That Dr. Draper is entitled to the thanks of this Society for his able and luminous address.

The committee appointed to confer with Dr. Draper on the subject of lecturing, reported by offering the following resolution, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Dr. Draper be requested to deliver a public lecture in the Court House, at 7 o'clock this evening; and that the citizens of Poughkeepsie be invited to attend.

The committee appointed to draft a Constitution reported the following, which was read and passed, article by article, and the whole adopted, as the Constitution of the Eastern District Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of New York.

CONSTITUTION.

Art. 1st. This Society shall be called the Eastern District Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of New York.

Art. 2d. The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice President, a Corresponding and Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and three Censors.

Art. 3d. It shall be the duty of the PRESIDENT to preside at all meetings of this Society, and to preserve and keep good order therein.

Art. 4. It shall be the duty of the VICE PRESIDENT to preside at all meetings of the Society, in the absence of the President, and by his request at all times to officiate in his stead.

Art. 5th. It shall be the duty of the RECORDING SECRETARY to keep a record of all the proceedings of this Society; also to keep a list of the names and

residences of the members, and make a true and faithful report at each regular meeting.

Art. 6th. It shall be the duty of the TREASURER to receive and keep all the moneys or funds that may belong to this Society, and render an exact account of the state of the Treasury, at every regular meeting of the Society, and pay the necessary expenses, by order of the President, Secretary, or Censors, when sanctioned by a vote of the majority of the Society; and furthermore, he shall, if required, give good and sufficient security for the faithful discharge of his duty.

Art. 7th. It shall be the duty of the CENSORS to criticise and examine any member of this Society who applies to them, relating to his knowledge of the Thomsonian System of Medicine, of the general principles of midwifery, of the anatomical structure and physiological functions of the human system, of the various symptoms and nature of the diseases incident to man; and shall also present them a certificate from some regular practitioner of this Society, showing that he sustains a good moral character and has studied the Thomsonian system of medicine for the term of at least one year, and if, after due examination, they find said applicant well qualified to practice medicine as a Thomsonian Botanic Physician, they shall grant him a certificate, which shall entitle him to a DIPLOMA from the State Society, for which he shall pay into the Treasury the sum of \$1.

Art. 8th. This Society shall hold two meetings in each year, one on the third Tuesday in April, and the other on the third Tuesday in October, at such place as it may previously appoint.

Art. 9th. Any person who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years, is a citizen of the United States, possesses a good moral character, and a certificate for the right of practice secured to Dr. Samuel Thomson by letters patent from the President of the United States, may become a member by subscribing to this constitution and paying the sum of one dollar into the Treasury.

Art. 10th. Any member of this Society may become a regular authorized practitioner by studying the Thomsonian system of medical practice one year or more, and exhibiting such testimonials of character, ability, and general knowledge of medicine, of the human system, and the diseases to which it is subject, as shall secure him a *Diploma* from the officers of the State Society.

Art. 11th. A majority of all the members present shall rule in the transaction of any business before the Society; and in case of a tie the President shall give the casting vote.

Art. 12th. If any member who holds a Diploma shall violate any of the rules and regulations of this Society, shall, on conviction before the Society, and after having been duly notified by the Corresponding Secretary, of the charges made against him, be expelled by a vote of two thirds of the members then present, and a notice thereof be published in one or more of the newspapers in the county where he resides.

Art. 13th. No member of this Society shall practise phlebotomy, [bleeding,] or use as medicine any mineral, animal, or vegetable poison, or any deleterious drugs whatever.

Art. 14th. No person shall be fellowshipped by this Society as a practitioner, except he shall obtain a Diploma from the officers of the State Society.

Art. 15th. This constitution may be altered or re-

vised on concurrence of two thirds of all the members present at a regular meeting of this Society, and it shall be proper to make such by-laws and regulations as shall be found necessary for the government thereof.

Art. 16th. This Society shall have power to confer honorary membership upon any physician who has distinguished himself by his talents, zeal, and industry in the great cause of medical revolution.

Art. 17th. Twelve members of this Society shall constitute a quorum to transact any business therein.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That this Society is to be considered as auxiliary to the Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of New York, and in the adoption of its by-laws, rules, and regulations, is to be governed by the fundamental principles of the State Society.

Resolved, That the main object of this Society is to concentrate the forces of the Thomsonian school, diffuse a knowledge of our principles and practice among the people; and by a concert of action, a union of purpose, and harmony of sentiment, to secure the inestimable blessings of health to all classes of our fellow creatures.

Resolved, That the next stated meeting of this Society be held at Hudson, Columbia county.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this Society, together with the constitution, be published in one or more of the Poughkeesie papers, with a request that they be copied into all of the Thomsonian papers in the United States.

ABIAL GARDNER, *President*.

JOHN G. SWEET, *Vice President*.

S. W. FRISBIE, *Cor. Secretary*.

A. N. BURTON, *Rec. Secretary*.

REMARKS ON THE FOREGOING.—It has been said, that Dr. Thomson is always opposed to such societies. So far from this being the fact, he is, and always has been, friendly to their formation, so far as they are based upon just principles. We think we speak the sentiments of the Doctor, when we say, that the above society meets his approbation, so far as it goes. His wish has always been, to have the State societies formed as *branches* to the U. S. Friendly Thomsonian Botanic Society; that each branch should have an article in their constitution, making it necessary to send a delegation, one or more, to the U. S. Convention. In this way there will be a *head*, where, in case of disagreement or other causes tending to embarrass the perfect harmony and unity of feeling which should characterize the whole family of Thomsonians, such affairs could be settled.

The Doctor also wishes these societies not to forget, or keep in the back ground, *the rights of the people*. His object, and it should be the object of all practitioners, is, to inform the people *how they may cure themselves*. If the practitioners of his school keep the means they use in curing disease a *secret*, what better are they than *quacks*—aye, *regular quacks*—except that they do not use poisons? We are aware of an instance where a pretended Thomsonian was, and perhaps is now, in the habit of using deleterious and poisonous drugs, whenever his patient had a *purse* which this villain could not see the end of! Societies will bear these hints in mind, and we assure them that they will be met in the best feeling by the venerable founder of our system.—[ED. MAN.]

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE THOMSONIAN BOTANIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE STATE OF VERMONT.

This body held its *second* annual meeting at the Vermont Botanic Infirmary in the village of Montpelier, on Wednesday the 18th of October, 1837. It organized by choosing Dr. J. Smith, President, *pro tempore*.

The Society then made choice of

Dr. JEHIEL SMITH, Randolph, *President*.

Dr. EZRA EDSON, Manchester, *Vice President*.

Dr. JAMES ROSS, Rutland, *Secretary*.

Dea. H. SPALDING, Montpelier, *Treasurer*.

On motion of Dr. J. Wright, a committee of three were appointed to select a Board of Censors and report immediately to the society. Drs. Wright, Wilcox, and T. H. Packard, committee.

The committee reported the following persons as Censors for the ensuing year, which was accepted, viz.

Dr. Gerry Ross, Newhaven,

" Jeremiah Arnold, Londonderry,

" Volney Ross, Brandon,

" S. Wilcox, Bennington,

" J. Wright, Montpelier,

" J. A. Martin, Weston,

" W. Parker, Mt. Holly,

Board
of
Censors.

As the committee appointed at our last meeting to draft by-laws for the government of this society have failed to perform the duty assigned them, Drs. Wright, Edson, and Burton, were appointed a committee to attend to the same duties and report at the next meeting.

Appointed Drs. Wilcox, Wright, and Fuller, a committee to designate the place and time for the next meeting of the society.

The Secretary and Board of Censors having failed to procure the printing of fifty copies of the Diplomas on parchment* directed at the last meeting of this Society, the Secretary and Censors for the ensuing year are directed to procure fifty copies printed on paper and present them at the next meeting.

Appointed Drs. J. Wright, and J. A. Martin, to deliver lectures before the society at its next meeting.

Appointed a committee of three to prepare a petition for the people to present the next legislature, for the repeal of all special laws on the subject of medicine, in case the bill now before the legislature shall be again lost in that honorable body; and report at the next meeting of the society. Drs. Smith, Edson and Wilcox, committee.

On motion of Dr. S. Wilcox, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted, viz.

Whereas, experience has taught us that efficient associated effort is more effectual in the advancement of any cause than individual—*Therefore, Resolved*, That we recommend the organization of three District Societies to be called the *Southern* District, to be composed of Bennington, Rutland, Windsor, and Windham Counties; the *Western* District, to be composed of Addison, Chitenden, Franklin, and Lamoille Counties; the *Eastern* District, to be composed of Orange, Washington, Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex Counties.

Resolved, That we recommend the committee appointed to draft by-laws to incorporate into their

* See an article on a succeeding page of this number, headed "Societies—Diplomas."—ED. MAN.

code an article which shall make it obligatory on all practising physicians to attend our annual meetings, unless they have some reasonable excuse to offer in extenuation of their non-attendance.

Appointed a committee of three in each district, to designate the time and place of meeting to organize said societies. Drs. R. Hall, E. Edson, and S. Wilcox, for the Southern District; Drs. G. Ross, S. N. Briggs, and W. S. Johnson, for the Western District; and Drs. Lathrop, Smith, and Wright, for the Eastern District.

The committee appointed to designate the time and place for the next meeting, reported that it be held in the village of East Randolph, Vt., on the 1st Thursday in June, 1838, which was accepted.

The Society unanimously adopted the following Resolutions, viz—

1. *Resolved*, That in the opinion of this society, the present law regulating the practice of medicine in this State, although originally designed for the security of the people, is both unjust in its principles and proscriptive in its operations, and therefore merits the indignation of a free people.

2. *Resolved*, That all laws should be founded on principles of justice and equality, leaving all professions to stand or fall by their own merits, regulated by a fair competition, and an accountability to their employers. [Good! stick to that.]

3. *Resolved*, That we will use all laudable endeavors to counteract the influence of all medical monopolies in the halls of legislation, [and every where else, also, we hope,] and to produce an equalized system of practice, resting on its inherent merits.

4. *Resolved*, That as the Botanic system of practice has now been sufficiently tested by experience, and found to answer all purposes in the healing art, that its good effects should not be prevented by proscriptive laws—[nor in any other way whatsoever.]

5. *Resolved*, That we consider a free people as competent to select their Physicians, as to elect their Legislators, and any law preventing the same, charges the people with ignorance, and infringes on their rights. [Precisely so—whether such “law” be instituted by the legislature or any other body. ED. MAN.]

Voted, That the proceedings of this society be signed by the President and Secretary and published in the Botanic Advocate, accompanied with a request that such other Botanic and political papers as feel disposed, should copy the same.

Adjourned to meet at East Randolph, on the first Thursday in June, 1838.

J. SMITH, *President*.

J. ROSS, *Secretary*.

ANECDOTE.—A student was under examination lately, at the College of Surgeons, when a hypothetical case was submitted, its various stages described, and the mode of treatment required. At last came the crisis:—“Now, Sir,” said Sir A—C—, “what would you do?” “Sir,” replied the pupil of Esculapius, “I would send for *you*.” We need not add that the answer was satisfactory.—Not quite so complimentary was the answer of another student at Apothecaries’ Hall: he had exhausted the diaphoretic medicines of the Pharmacopœia, and to a further enquiry made him, roared out, —“Why, if every thing else failed, I would send him here to be examined, and if that would not make him *sweat*, he must die!!”

OBITUARY!—It is generally with excited feelings and sensibilities that we write, when called upon to furnish an obituary of departed worth and greatness. It is a subject generally alike melancholy to all. But the present case is one which excites mingled sensations—on account of the peculiar circumstances attending it.

It hath become our *painful* duty then, to make known to our readers that the “*Thomsonian Recorder*” is no more! It “departed this life” at the age of 5 years, of what is supposed to have been a violent attack of *splenitic inflammation*, being attended in its last moments by one Dr. Curtis. The Recorder was brought into being by Samuel Thomson, who furnished the means to support and sustain it until its *step-parents* had learned that it was robust enough to ‘go alone’ without further assistance from its original progenitor; when they attempted entirely to exclude him, thinking, no doubt, that the bantling had become sufficiently vigorous to prove a source of *gain* as well as honor to them, which by no means would willingly be shared with others. But alas! we know not what a day may bring forth! And nought now remains of the “*Thomsonian Recorder*” but the memory thereof.

Be our regrets and mourning quieted, however—for behold from its ashes springeth, phoenix-like, a promising and sprightly heir, bringing evidence abundant that it will inherit all the virtues of its predecessor. The estate of the latter will probably be divided among the legatees, though it is to be feared that *all* will not receive their *legacy*. The *main* part, however, will fall to the new heir, and we cordially wish it success. It is intended and probably will take the place of its defunct predecessor. See Proposals on the last page. *

MOTHERWORT.—This plant has a hard, square, brownish, strong stalk, rising from two to four feet high, spreading into many branches, leaves broad and long, notched about the edge. The flowers are sharp pointed, with rough, prickly husks or burs, of a purple color; the root sends forth long fibres of a dark yellow color.—The herb or root relieves hysterical symptoms, procures sleep, abates delirium, and allays spasms or risings of the uterus; it is admirably adapted to the cases of those females who suffer pains from tenderness about the lower bowels and loins; it brings on the menses. As a warm cordial, it may be used in low fevers, with nervous affections, cramps and convulsions.

“PHYSICIAN WANTED—One who is willing to rely for employment on his success in practice, rather than on the mere profession of skill, and will devote his time to the duties of his calling, instead of employing it in an officious interference with the avocations of the citizens, may obtain a lucrative patronage in the town of Brighton, Mass. 2s4os Nov. 13.”

The above appeared as an advertisement in a recent Morning Post. We are altogether in the dark on the subject, except so far as it is developed in the advertisement. But we think somebody or other is *rubbed* most ‘bodyaciously.’ So far as the first of the stipulations go, however—a reliance on ‘success in practice, rather than on mere profession of skill’—we think a Thomsonian practitioner must be the very thing wanted, and therefore we copy the advertisement for the consideration of any of our friends who may be desirous of a respectable ‘location.’—[ED. MAN.]

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, NOVEMBER 15, 1837.

SOCIETIES—DIPLOMAS.

It is with pleasure that we are able to give in this number, the proceedings of two Thomsonian Medical Societies—one of them newly formed. As they evince the increasing spread of the simple and effective system of Thomson, they afford great gratification; and as they will, if rightfully directed, be powerful auxiliaries in hastening the revolution in which we are engaged, the interest with which we regard them is redoubled.

But (as has been already hinted in a note to the former of the articles referred to,) it is to be hoped, that while these and similar societies are taking steps to further the spread, and secure the respectability of Thomsonism, they will not infringe upon nor forget the rights of the people! It is for the benefit of the whole community, that societies of this kind should be instituted, and not for the emolument of individuals. And rather than see the influence they embody wrested to a purpose so odious as the latter, we would desire that the system might still be left, as heretofore, to gain its vantage-ground 'by storm,' aided alone by the simple majesty of truth, and goodness, and benevolence.

There is but one important point in which we consider these particular societies faulty, and which we take exception to as affording opportunity for abuse and monopoly to creep in and to be perpetuated. And this, every one will guess, is comprehended in the granting of DIPLOMAS,—a word defined by Webster, "a deed of privilege,"—by Ainsworth, "a prince's letters patent."

In the first place, we object to the term. It looks too much like aping the dishonest customs, and imitating the charlatanic humbuggery of our "regular" opponents,—which Thomsonians have so often, and so justly ridiculed. If, to secure the public against imposition, practitioners must be *licensed*, let it be done in a plain, common sense manner, by a *certificate* of approbation, from some proper persons,—a board of censors, if you please, consisting of practitioners and others, appointed by some state or county society,—but let us leave the "deeds of princely privilege," and all that sort of thing, with the poison physic of those who need their support, to be "thrown to the dogs."

This, however, may be considered a trifling objection. We have one stronger still, and irremovable,—the TERMS on which these Deeds of Privilege are to be granted! According to these terms or conditions, it is to be a matter of the utmost indifference whether the applicant for this deed of privilege, or diploma, is a wise man or a fool—a lion or an ass—a Thomson or a Sumner Stebbins!!! Let them but

nominally comply with the conditions prescribed, and, in the eyes of the society, they are equally entitled to public confidence. Nay, let Stebbins study for a year, &c. and he would claim all that could be granted to Thomson himself—and more too, perhaps—for who did Thomson ever study with?

This arbitrary regulation is precisely like that of the *faculty*,—against the injustice of which so much has been said. We consider that to limit or fix the time which shall be spent by the student, before he can receive the approbation of a society and be permitted to practice, is an absurdity which Thomsonians, of all others, should be the very last to countenance. It is a condition to which few, if any, existing Thomsonian physicians have been subjected—and it is a condition to which we never would subject ourselves. If, by extraordinary application and industry, one individual, after a study and practice of three months, should be as much entitled to approbation as the drone who remains a dunce at the conclusion of as many years of drilling, the former should receive that approbation the moment he becomes worthy of it. And to refuse it, while retaining the power of discrediting him, would be doing injustice the most gross.

In this matter we desire to see Thomsonians consistent with the principles they have professed. Of what advantage will it be to the community to overthrow existing monopoly in medicine, if another monopoly, not less odious, is to be erected on the ruins of the present? And this cannot fail to be the conclusion of all our struggles in the correction of acknowledged abuses, if societies, the majority of whom may be practitioners, are to prescribe conditions, only on the performance of which, shall others be permitted to practice. If this abuse be tolerated by Thomsonians now, they may ere long find as much insolent impudence in the ranks of their own practitioners, as is now the most conspicuous characteristic of the law-leg craft, and which, also, may be found as hard to overcome—for we are compelled to admit, though sorry for it, that our medicines have not yet eradicated what is supposed to be the inherent evil principle of human nature.

It is far easier to prevent than to remedy abuses as well as disease. And no abuse was ever originated but under a plea of the public good. One man has as good a right to practice medicine, if he is capable of it, as another; and to debar him in the least of the exercise of that right, is impolitic and unjust. No friend to humanity would infringe upon that right; and the Thomsonian who would be guilty of so doing, is a monopolist of a worse grade than the "regular," as he "sins against greater light."

We do not wish to be misunderstood. We would not have the public injured and our cause disgraced by ignorant practitioners. We have no objection to such an examination of the qualifications of all physicians as would secure the community against all sorts of quackery; on the contrary, we wish that every physician could be subjected to an impartial and efficient examination of this sort. But as for fixing the time of study, or imposing on those who would practice any other arbitrary or unnecessary obligations,—it is what we will not consent to,—is what we are warring against, and shall continue so to do, let the abuse come from whencesoever it may. We will not strike Cæsar to make Antony master of Rome.

THE NEW ENGLAND BRANCH

OF THE U. S. THOMSONIAN FRIENDLY BOTANIC SOCIETY

Met in Convention at Providence, R.I., Monday, Nov. 13, 1837, agreeably to notice of Doctor Samuel Thomson, through the Thomsonian Manual. At the request of Dr. Thomson, the meeting was called to order by Dr. B. W. Sperry, of New Haven, Ct.

WILLIAM WYMAN, Esq. of Boston, was called to the Chair, and Dr. I. J. SPERRY, of Hartford, Ct., and GEO. A. CHAPMAN, of Boston, appointed Secretaries.

On motion of Dr. B. W. Sperry, a committee of three, consisting of Dr. Brown, of Meriden, Ct., Dr. J. R. Patten, of Lynn, Mass., and Dr. O. Cook, of White Creek, N. Y., was appointed to confer with Dr. Thomson, relative to any communication he may have to make to this meeting.

On motion of Dr. I. J. Sperry, of Hartford, Ct. a Committee of five was appointed to examine the credentials of members. Committee consisted of Dr. B. W. Sperry, J. A. Brown of Providence, G. A. Chapman, Dr. P. F. Sweet of New York, and Dr. A. Scammell of Milford, Ms.

The committee requesting the names of the members, they were handed in, and it appeared there were present 32 members, from the New England States and New York—the names of whom it is deemed unnecessary to give here, as they will be found, with those of others subsequently admitted, attached to the Test Resolution.

The committee appointed to confer with Doct. Thomson, reported the following address from him, which was ordered to be read by the Secretary, and to be made a part of the proceedings of this Convention.

DR. THOMSON'S ADDRESS.

BRETHREN:

Our object in calling this convention, is for the purpose of benefitting our fellow men, by providing means for instructing them in the art of alleviating the pains and sufferings to which the human body is incident in every form of disease; and also for exposing that greatest of all impostures—the irregular practice of the regular doctors,—I mean that practice by which so many of our race are so often duped against the natural instinct of their senses,—for it is notoriously known that they are made by these regular diplomatized M. D.'s, to believe that an instrument of *Death*, is, at the will of the doctor (or rather juggler) an instrument of *Life*.

Gentlemen—after having for centuries been subject to this imposition, the present generation has been highly favored with a boon which is in the estimation of all who have investigated this subject, the greatest blessing which has been conferred on mankind for ages.

I do not intend to arrogate undue merit to myself, when I say without hesitation, I mean that blessing to be what is denominated the "Thomsonian System of Medical Practice;" and I presume there are many among this enlightened assemblage, who have, in many trying scenes, tested the virtue of its remedies, and now feel confident it will continue health and even life, from infancy to good old age.

But, Gentlemen, I regret to say the present generation has been doomed to witness a new scene of imposition. Those who have the most reason to be grateful—those who from sickness, lameness, and derangement, have been restored to the use of their bodies, limbs, and senses—are the first to enter into a piratical career against their benefactor. It has been with the greatest labor, and energy of body and mind, that I have

been enabled to withstand the base ingratitude of those, who should have been my best friends.

The persecution that I have endured from those who have been instrumental in having me incarcerated in a filthy prison, and arraigned before a jury as a murderer!—and have also been influential in having laws enacted that I should have no pay for services rendered in alleviating the sufferings of my fellow men, and which laws provided, if I did receive pay, I should be punished by fine and imprisonment, does not weigh so heavily upon me as the unlooked for treachery of those, whom I have in many instances snatched as it were, from the grave, and taken from extreme poverty, and placed in situations above want! Yes, I have taken many from the most helpless condition, and restored to health, and strength; thereby enabling them to transact ordinary business, and often furnished them with capital, and profitable business to transact. And these persons have often been the first to become trespassers on my individual rights, and frequently have assumed the proprietorship of my name, and discoveries, my patent, press, and copyright!—and, under these circumstances, can it be presumed that I can look tamely on and make no effort to enjoy the rights of other men? No, I believe you will all say, it could not be expected of me, and these things have often been met as they deserved. Some of those who have been trespassers, have come forward and candidly acknowledged they could not succeed in the course they had adopted; for whenever I made an exertion to put a stop to their impositions, my efforts have been crowned with success; and it was vain and futile, for them to struggle with the tide that I should set against them. And I recommend to this convention, to attend to these cases, and if an adjustment of difficulties can be consistently had with them, it will meet with my warmest approbation.

Some of those who have been trespassers, have been convinced of their error in using any and every thing purporting to be like my medicine which has been sold them at a cheap rate, and most of us have seen its effects in incidents which have lately transpired in various places.

As one principal grievance, it has frequently been said of me, by those who have endeavored to usurp my rights, that "Dr. Thomson will not allow, or admit improvements in his system of medical practice;" and this observation is now often echoed by many who know nothing of the case or its merits.

Having this good opportunity, I will ask of this assembly, what is meant by improvements? If I correctly understand the term, it means something better than the article already in use. Is it pretended by any one, that he can procure better crude articles, or can have better articles cultivated for him than I can? If he cannot, so far he has nothing like improvement. And for a better understanding of the subject, I will recapitulate my rule of practice as it is laid down in the six numbers. Has any one a better article than my No. 1, for cleansing the stomach and dislodging its contents? If he has, place it as No. 1 in the botanic practice, and throw my No. 1 aside, for it becomes useless, and let him have the credit of it. Has any one a better article than my No. 2, for raising and retaining the internal heat? If so, let him place it as No. 2 in your medical practice, for it must necessarily be an actual improvement, and my No. 2 should be laid aside. Has any one better articles than what is comprised under the head of my No. 3, for scouring and subduing canker? If so, he has an improvement, for he has something better than I have discovered, and it must take the place of my No. 3. But if nothing is known better than I have discovered, my system stands of itself without improvements, for no one produces better articles, or betters the condition of the articles.

I think you will perceive at a single glance, that it will not answer for me to allow any thing mixed with

my medicine to be an improvement, for it may be that my medicine effects a cure for other article to get the credit, or, it may be for the other article to kill, and my name to bear the burden of blame.

The three numbers that I have enumerated to you, will remove disease in all its various forms and indications; and numbers 4, 5, and 6, are to be used as restoratives. Can any one produce better articles than I have laid down in these three last numbers for the objects for which they are specified? If so, let mine be excluded, and the others substituted in their places. If no one produces better articles, mine stand without competition; and until the requisitions herein contained are complied with, it is unnecessary for me to say more about improvements. But I will call upon this convention to aid and assist me wholly in keeping my system and medicine pure and unadulterated, that we may transmit to posterity that blessing, which all who know it, have acknowledged it to be. But if there are any here who cannot assist me entirely, let them join with the trespassers and help them, as I wish to retain my medicine strictly my own, and if cures are performed by my medicine, I wish the medicine to have the credit. I do not want any of the credit of spurious medicine should it kill or cure; and I wish my name withdrawn from all which is not truly Thomsonian, for I will no longer furnish them with my name and celebrity to cloak their impositions.

I wish furthermore to have this convention to consider as a subject and come to some conclusion, what is meant by the term "Thomsonian," for if I may judge by the acts of individuals, the term, or name, is common property, as others make as free use of it as I can myself, but with what right, I shall leave for this convention to determine.

I presume it is well known to many here, that my name has been posted in many places, and in Boston particularly, for four years past, on one of the largest houses in that city, as a decoy to the unwary—that spurious practice and spurious medicine, or rather that cheat practice and cheap articles, might be imposed on them as "Dr. Thomson's practice and medicine." The recent proprietor has come forward and candidly acknowledged his mistaken views. The present proprietor I am pleased to inform you is one whom I have approbated, and one who I believe uses good medicine, and is well qualified to superintend the establishment.

I also wish this convention to consider the subject of "Family Rights," and determine what privileges belong to the owner of one, and perhaps it may be expedient to have specifications in full, that ignorance may no longer be a plea for having gone extensively into the practice and sale of medicine.

There are many things connected with these subjects I should have been pleased to have taken up more minutely, but my endeavor has been to make my address as short as possible, believing the ideas I have touched upon will be enlarged and investigated by the convention.

I should have been glad to have given you a statement of the situation of the practice in the western States, but as I have before said, it is my wish to use as little of the time of the delegates here assembled as I possibly can, and at the same time accomplish the object of our missions.

A motion was made to admit a public reporter, which after some discussion, was rejected.

On motion of S. Smith, Esq. of Boston, the following resolutions were severally read, adopted, and the committees chosen.

1. *Resolved*, That so much of the address as relates to the rights of Dr. Samuel Thomson, as the discoverer and patentee of the Thomsonian system and practice, be referred to a committee.

Accepted—S. Smith, B. W. Sperry, and Oliver Cook, were appointed,

2. *Resolved*, That so much of the address as relates to the rights of those who have purchased of Dr. Samuel Thomson the Family Right to prepare and use the medicine, connected with the Thomsonian system and practice; and wherein said rights vary from an agency under Dr. Thomson, to *practice*, be referred to a committee.

Accepted—Drs. Robinson of Norwich, I. J. Sperry, Hartford, Ct., P. F. Sweet, New York, A. McCollum and J. A. Brown—committee.

3. *Resolved*, That so much of the address as relates to the trespasses of Thomsonians on the rights of Dr. Thomson, be referred to a committee.

Accepted—Drs. Magoon, Smith, Brown of Ct., Scammell and Lapham, appointed.

4. *Resolved*, That so much of the address as relates to the necessity of keeping the Thomsonian system and practice in its pure state by using none but the best of medicine, be referred to a committee.

Accepted—Drs. Jenkins of Providence, Patten, Sweet, T. Howarth, and B. W. Sperry, com'tee.

On motion of Dr. B. W. Sperry,

Voted, That any member having any communication to make to this meeting, may now do it.

Dr. J. A. BROWN of Providence, handed in a communication from the R. I. Botanic Association, which being read, and containing nothing properly relating to the business of the Convention, was not accepted.

On motion of Dr. B. W. Sperry, a committee of five was appointed to confer with Dr. Thomson respecting the prices of medicines, the sale of Rights, the granting of agencies, the requisition of bonds, &c., and report to this convention.—Drs. J. W. Chapman, B. W. Sperry, C. W. Martin, P. Lapham, and A. Brown of Ct., committee.

On motion of S. Smith of Boston, Dr. C. W. Martin was requested to deliver a lecture, before the Convention, this evening. Dr. M. remarked that there were printed notices to deliver a lecture.

The subject of the Test Resolution being discussed, was laid over till next meeting.

Adjourned to Tuesday morning, 9 a. m.

Tuesday, 9 a. m.—Met pursuant to adjournment.

W. W. Wilson, of Boston, appeared, was qualified, and took his seat.

The subject of the Test Resolution coming up, after a discussion of several hours, was adopted by sentences, unanimously.

[For Test Resolution and Signatures, see end of Proceedings.]

M. Mattson, Esq. of Philadelphia, was duly qualified and took his seat.

Report of Committee under the First Resolution: Rights of Dr. Thomson.

The committee chosen to report on the rights of Dr. Samuel Thomson, as connected with the Thomsonian system of medical practice, have attended to that duty and report: That Dr. Samuel Thomson has, by many years of labor and toil, discovered and brought into use, a system of medical practice, which is one of the most important discoveries ever made by man. In consequence of its being in opposition to the Medical Faculty, he has been the subject of persecution from the time of his discovery to the present period. Your

committee cannot forbear to state what would appear to be a self-evident fact, that Dr. Thomson was the exclusive proprietor of all the benefits of said discovery, and also, that so far as he has not sold a part or parts of said discovery, he still is the sole owner and proprietor of said system of medical practice, and that no person can use or practice under said system but with the consent and approbation of said Thomson without violating his rights.

SAMUEL SMITH, }
B. W. SPERRY, } *Committee.*
OLIVER COOK, }

Report accepted.

*Report of Committee under the Second Resolution:
Rights of Right-holders.*

The Committee to whom was referred so much of Dr. Thomson's address as relates to the rights of those who have purchased of him the Family Right, to prepare and use the medicine connected with the Thomsonian system and practice, and wherein said Rights vary from an Agency under Dr. Thomson to *practice*—respectfully report:—That it is their unanimous opinion, that the privileges attached to the possession of a Family Right, extend merely to the family owning such right. And it is their opinion further, that an Agency from Dr. Thomson, ought not, and is not sufficient of itself, to qualify a person for a general practitioner: because it has come to the knowledge of your committee, that agencies have been granted to persons totally ignorant of the theory and practice of Thomson; and in their opinion, never could be made capable of understanding them. That it is their opinion, that an agency to sell medicine ought not to convey a right to practice generally; because able and successful practitioners have been many times obliged to relinquish the practice; on account of persons practising under an agency, who were totally unqualified for said practice, and the system of Thomson has been thereby brought into disrepute. And further, that an agency for general practice, ought not to be granted to any who do not possess qualifications sufficient to secure the confidence of the public: that such an agency ought to be particularly specified, in contradistinction to a family right, or one merely to sell medicine. That a general practitioner ought to be qualified to collect, compound, and prepare medicine, to use in all the varied forms of disease to which the human family is liable: and that every candidate for an agency to practice publicly, ought to come recommended by a Thomsonian Society, of which he may be a member, or, if there be no society in the vicinity in which he resides, be recommended by three authorized practitioners; and after he has received an agency to that effect, he shall be recognized as a Thomsonian Physician. Respectfully submitted,

ISAAC J. SPERRY, *Chairman of Com.*

The above was taken up by sections, discussed, and adopted.

Dr. John Morgridge of New Bedford, appeared and took his seat.

On motion, Dr. Martin, of Salem, was requested to lecture tomorrow evening, and notice of the same was ordered to be published in the papers of the city.

Adjourned to 2 p. m.

2 p. m., met pursuant to adjournment.—Drs. R. Rugg of Haverhill, Ms. and J. W. Nichols of Enfield, Ct., severally appeared and took their seats.

The committee under the 3d resolution, was granted further time.

*Report of Committee under the Fourth Resolution:
Use of Pure Medicines.*

The Committee to whom was referred that part of Dr. Thomson's address which relates to keeping the Thomsonian system and practice in its pure state, by using none but the best of medicines, are of opinion, that every Thomsonian must be aware of the great importance of using none but the most pure medicines, prepared by Dr. Thomson himself, or some authorized agent: and this, not only for the credit of the system, but for their own credit and even their true interest. To accomplish this, your committee would recommend the establishment of depots for the sale of the genuine medicines, in such places as will make it convenient for every one disposed to obtain the pure articles. They would further recommend, that the prices of medicine be reduced as low as possible to agents, in order that they may the more successfully compete with the sale of articles by others in whom they have no confidence. Also, that a committee of five members be appointed to confer with Dr. Thomson, and report a schedule of prices at which he will furnish medicine to agents through the depots which may hereafter be, and which are now established—to be subject to the action of the Convention.

B. W. SPERRY, }
J. JENKINS, } *Com'tee.*
THOS. HOWARTH, }
J. R. PATTEN, }
P. F. SWEET, }

Report accepted, and the subject recommitted to the committee appointed yesterday with reference to medicines, agencies, &c.

The committee to whom was referred the last mentioned subjects, was granted further time.

Several new members having arrived since the delivery of Dr. Thomson's Address, it was, on motion, read by the Secretary a second time.

On motion of Dr. J. A. Brown, that part of the address relating to him was referred to a committee.—Mr. Mattson of Philadelphia, Dr. Morrill, S. Smith, Dr. A. Scammell, Dr. Cook of White Creek, N.Y. were appointed.

The following communication from Dr. Thomson, was read by Mr. S. Smith of Boston, which, on motion of Mr. Chapman, was made part of the proceedings of this convention, and referred to the same committee, after being discussed by Drs. J. A. Brown, I. J. Sperry, Chapman and Smith.

To the Convention now assembled at Providence, R.I.

BRETHREN: It is with extreme reluctance that I appear before you in the character of an accuser. But that which I conceive to be a gross violation of my rights, by one who associates with us in this convention, makes it my duty to present for your consideration and action, the past conduct of John A. Brown. I therefore request, that the subject of difference between said Brown and myself, may be referred to a committee; and there I will bring forward such testimony as I expect will show that

I have been injured by said Brown; and that said Brown may be heard in his defence.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Report of Committee under the Third Resolution: Trespasses of Thomsonians.

Your Committee appointed to take into consideration the resolution in regard to trespassers on the rights of Dr. S. Thomson, beg leave to report: That there are three species of trespassers on the above named rights. Those who practice on the Thomsonian system, having purchased spurious books or rights:—all these we deem as trespassers of an aggravated kind. Secondly, there are those who having purchased the family right, undertake to practice without being duly and properly qualified; and using spurious and adulterated medicine retard the progress of the practice: for your committee consider that all who enter into this practice, ought to be properly qualified, that the credit and character of said practice may be properly sustained. A third species of trespassers are those who have rights, and have obtained their knowledge of medicine through the medium of Doctor Thomson, and from him solely derive their existence as medical men: such as those who for pecuniary interest accommodate themselves to any cognomen to suit their present convenience, call themselves Indian Doctors, Botanics, Beachites, Howardites, and a host of other “ites,” too numerous to mention. All these we consider as trespassers, and injurious to the cause. *We consider every one who has signed the “Bond” and not lived up to the same, as trespassers.* [The sentence in italic was added by amendment.]

NATH’L S. MAGOON, *Chairman of Com.*

On motion of Mr. Chapman, it was

Voted, That the thanks of this Convention be given to Drs. Thomson, Martin, Sperry and Cook, for their able and eloquent addresses last evening.

On motion of Dr. Martin, the vote whereby we accepted the report of the committee under the 3d resolution, on trespasses, &c., was reconsidered, and, on motion of the same, an addition was made to said report, as follows, viz: “We consider every one who has signed the “Bond” and not lived up to the same, as trespassers.” Said report was then accepted as amended.

Adj. to tomorrow, 9 a. m.

Wednesday, 9 a. m.—Met pursuant to adjournment.—The following report was received.

Prices of Medicine and Rights, &c.

The Committee to whom was referred the subject of Prices of Medicine, Rights, Agencies, &c., respectfully report: That after consulting and conferring with Dr. Thomson, and a mutual understanding being the result, Dr. Thomson will discount 50 per cent. from the present schedule price for books and medicine, when cash payments are made; or 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. on medicine, and 50 per cent. on rights, when credit is given. Such being the result of the labors of your committee, they cannot close this report without an expression of satisfaction that the subject is brought to a close, and recommend that all agents, as far as practicable, procure their medicine of Dr. Thomson, or of his agents: and further recommend to the agent and

practitioners, to keep the retail price where it now is, it coming to the knowledge of your committee that the price of Thomsonian medicine is about the same in all the New England States.

B. W. SPERRY,
J. W. CHAPMAN,
C. W. MARTIN,
P. LAPHAM,
A. BROWN, } *Committee.*

Report accepted.

On motion of Mr. G. A. Chapman,

Resolved, That this Convention having full confidence in the talents and ability of Dr. C. W. Martin, to disseminate and defend the system of medical practice inculcated by Samuel Thomson, do hereby recommend him to the public as a lecturer on this system.

Thomson vs. J. A. Brown.

The Committee appointed to make an investigation of the difficulties existing between Dr. S. Thomson and J. A. Brown, beg leave to make the following report: They have attentively heard the statements of the respective parties with regard to their grievances; and after giving them mature consideration, have made the following decisions.

1. That Dr. Brown shall entirely suppress his publication entitled ‘The Family Guide to Health,’ &c.

2. That Dr. Thomson withdraw his agency from this place, and confer an agency on Dr. Brown, such as is conferred upon agents generally.

3. That Dr. Brown shall submit to the rules and regulations which govern Dr. Thomson’s agencies.

4. That we proceed to an examination of Dr. Brown’s medicines, in order that those which are good may be at his entire disposal, while those of a different nature (if any) shall be destroyed.

The committee award the highest praise to Drs. Thomson and Brown, for the open and ingenuous manner in which they have submitted their difficulties to the decision of said committee.

The committee respectfully request the members of the convention to strike from Dr. Thomson’s address, the passage in relation to Dr. Brown’s Infirmary in Boston.

M. MATTSOON,
OLIVER COOK,
GEO. E. MORRILL,
ALEX’R. SCAMMELL,
SAMUEL SMITH, } *Committee.*

Report unanimously accepted.

The following communication presented by Mr. S. Smith; was read by the Secretary.

TO THE PUBLIC.

My attention has been frequently called to an advertisement of “E. LARABEE,” of Baltimore, and the reasons asked why I permitted him to go on in his wholesale game of trespass and fraud, without taking any notice of him. Were it not that the lives as well as property of the community are in danger by his impositions, I should have nothing to say. But as it now is, I wish the people to read the following and ponder well the facts.

E. Larabee comes out with a flaring advertisement stating that he prepares, wholesale and retail, *Thomsonian* Botanic Medicines. Yet he never had any authority from me to do any such thing; and I claim to be the original discoverer, (and he concedes it by using my name to make his articles sell)—and I certainly am the patentee of the medicines bearing my name. If, then,

he has no authority from me, did he come honestly by such right? Knowing that his own name alone would not bear him out in this iniquity, he borrows the names of five redoubtable individuals, purporting to be a "Committee of Inspection"—for what, think ye? Why, to inform the public that E. Larabee successfully counterfeits my medicines. And where did this "Committee of Inspection" come from? They say, or he says for them, that they were appointed by a Society—but who can tell of who or what this Society consists—probably of the few who have tried for years to get my sanction to their iniquitous proceedings, but without success.

This "Committee of Inspection," who pretend to know so much about medicines, must certainly have a fine business to attend to, if they can neglect their several callings of *shoemaker, blacksmith, painter, bricklayer, and carpenter*, (good honest callings, by the way,) to inspect all the medicines that E. Larabee sends forth; and if they do not inspect all, do they do that which their certificate purports that they do? If E. Larabee has need of their testimony, and thinks, or knows, that his own name will not go down with the public, without the aid of a "Committee of Inspection," shall he be trusted in compounding medicines, where his main chance of profit lies in adulterating or using spurious articles? The fact is, the profit is much smaller in manufacturing or vending genuine medicines, than in making use of the spurious trash with which the country is filled. Hence E. Larabee's success in selling. I have letters on hand from different parts of the South and West, complaining of the quantities of spurious and bad medicines that find their way to those places; and am weekly receiving similar complaints. In several instances, I can trace these articles to their proper source,—E. Larabee,—his "Committee of Inspection" to the contrary, notwithstanding. If these medicines, or rather nostrums, have a bad effect, who would think of blaming E. Larabee? No one. The Thomsonian System, and through that myself, has to bear all the blame.

My only object in saying the above being to put the people on their guard, especially when the lives of their families as well as themselves, are in jeopardy, I will therefore briefly state, that I have never, directly or indirectly, given any authority or leave to E. Larabee to prepare or sell Thomsonian Medicine, and know him only as an impostor. That the public may be satisfied in respect to the nostrums he sells, and manufactures, I respectfully ask them to compare any article sold by E. Larabee with those which I prepare, and they will need no assistance to see the difference between the genuine and spurious. GODFREY MEYER & Co., Pratt street, Baltimore, can also show them the genuine articles of which the compounds are made, and they can compare them with the articles compounded by E. Larabee.

I have always used my best endeavors to have my system diffused in its simplicity and purity; and shall always contend against impostors and swindlers, who, for the sake of enriching themselves, care not what distress and misery they bring upon their fellow beings, provided their own ends are answered. I shall however, have the satisfaction of knowing that I have done my duty, by preventing, as far as I am able, the public from being imposed upon. I have spent my life for the good of mankind, and shall continue to do for them all that I can, and warn them against all the evil that I may see in their way.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, Oct. 10, 1837.

On motion of Dr. White of N. Y. it was

Voted, that the *Thomsonian* periodicals be requested to publish the foregoing communication.

On motion of Dr. C. W. Martin, the following resolution was adopted unanimously:

Whereas a communication has been made by Dr. Thomson that E. Larabee, of Baltimore, is making and vending medicines, without any au-

thority or agency from him (Dr. T.), and as this Convention have abundant evidence that the said medicines are bad, and unfit to be used, and dangerous to the community, therefore,

Resolved, That this Convention fully disapprove and condemn such conduct, and warn all true Thomsonians, and the public generally, against the purchasing or using E. Larabee's medicines; and that any agent of Dr. Thomson, purchasing medicine of said Larabee, after learning of his vile impositions, should be expelled from the Thomsonian fraternity.

On motion of Mr. Chapman,

Resolved, That we believe, from the representations of Dr. Thomson, that pure medicines may be obtained of his agents, Godfrey Meyer & Co., of Baltimore, Md., and would recommend practitioners, and others, to procure medicines of them, when practicable.

Adj. to 2 p. m.

2 p. m.—met pursuant to adjournment.—On motion of Dr. I. J. Sperry, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted, as amended by Mr. Chapman:

Whereas, It has come to the knowledge of this Convention that the publication heretofore known by the name of the Thomsonian Recorder, and published at Columbus, O., by Dr. Curtis, has doffed the Thomsonian badge by substituting "Botanico Medical" for Thomsonian, therefore

Resolved, That this Convention do not approve of the course pursued by the editor of said paper.

Resolved, That this Convention recommend to all Thomsonians to patronise the Thomsonian Manual, Boston; Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel; the Thomsonian Recorder, Louisville, Ky., heir of its deceased predecessor, and such others as support the system of Medical Practice as laid down by Dr. S. Thomson.

On motion of Dr. O. Cook,

Resolved, That in assembling as members of this convention, we consider ourselves auxiliary to the Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society of the United States.

On motion of S. Smith, Esq.

Resolved, That two delegates from each of the New England States and the State of New York, be chosen as Thomsonian representatives to the U. S. Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society, which will assemble in general convention in Philadelphia, October, 1838.

In pursuance to the resolution, the following gentlemen were chosen:

Maine—Dr. Thomas Annis, Camden; Dr. Nicholas Smith, Hallowell.

Vermont—Dr. Wilcox, Bennington; Dr. J. Arnold, Londonderry.

New Hampshire—Dr. G. E. Morrill, Nashua; Dr. E. Chapman, Tuftonboro.

Massachusetts—Samuel Smith, Boston; Dr. C. W. Martin, Salem.

Connecticut—Dr. B. W. Sperry, New Haven, Dr. A. Brown, Meriden.

Rhode-Island—Dr. J. A. Brown, Providence; Dr. A. Gardner, Newport.

New York—Dr. O. Cook, White Creek; Dr. P. Lapham, New York city.

On motion of S. Smith,

Resolved, That Dr. I. J. Sperry of Hartford, Ct., G. A. Chapman of Boston, M. Mattson of Philadelphia, and Dr. R. K. Frost of New York, be Corresponding Secretaries of this Convention.

On motion of Dr. C. W. Martin,
Resolved. That this Convention recommend the formation of Thomsonian societies in every State, and the appointment by them of Censors to examine and recommend candidates to Dr. Thomson for general practitioners.

On motion of Dr. I. J. Sperry,
Resolved, That as there is an individual by the name of BENJAMIN THOMPSON, travelling about the country, and representing himself as SAMUEL THOMSON, the founder of the Thomsonian System, that the country be warned against him as an impostor, so that they may no longer suffer from his dishonest practices.

On motion of Dr. B. W. Sperry,
Resolved, That the thanks of this Convention be presented to the President and Secretaries, for the faithfulness with which their several duties have been performed.

On motion of G. A. Chapman,
Resolved, That the delegates from the several States here assembled, have power to investigate medicines and report all cases of malpractice to the convention, as far as in them lies.

On motion of Dr. B. W. Sperry, it was unanimously

Voted, That in regard to the recent death of a patient of Dr. J. Morgridge, of New Bedford, this Convention, having examined the evidence, see no cause of blame whatever, on the part of Dr. Morgridge.

On motion of Dr. O. Cook,
Voted, That the President of this Convention be the Moderator of the meeting to be holden this evening.

On motion of Dr. O. Cook, Dr. J. A. Brown was chosen to state to the meeting this evening, that all the difficulties heretofore existing between Dr. Samuel Thomson and himself, (J. A. Brown,) had been amicably adjusted.

The following resolution closed the proceedings of the Convention.

Resolved, That this Convention now adjourn, to assemble at any time and place which shall be named by Dr. Thomson, in the "Thomsonian Manual."

WILLIAM WYMAN, *President.*

ISAAC J. SPERRY, }
GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, } *Secretaries.*

TEST RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION.

RESOLVED, That we consider the Thomsonian System and Practice of Medicine the best in our knowledge for the removal and cure of disease. We know of no other Medicines equal to those recommended by Doctor Samuel Thomson; and we firmly believe, taken as a whole, that none have been discovered. We therefore consider it a duty that we owe to the whole family of man, to recommend to them the Thomsonian System in its simplicity and purity, and to admonish them to look to and depend thereon, as the surest foundation yet known among men, on which they may safely build a confident hope of relief from the various forms of disease, or those ills consequent on disease, that flesh and blood are heir to. We determine, therefore, that we will not use, or admit into this Institution, any one who uses, or vends to be used as medicine, any mineral or vegetable poisons; or practices contrary to the system of practice as laid down by Dr. Samuel Thomson. Wishing to extend the system for the benefit of our fellow men, we agree hereby not to conceal any article in our practice; but to convey the information to our

brother practitioners whenever asked for, who are under the authority and patronage of Dr. Thomson. In case of any disagreement between members of this Society, in relation to medicines used by them in their practice, it shall be settled by being referred to the next Convention; and their action thereon shall be considered final by the parties interested. Any member of this Society who shall violate any of the foregoing clauses, shall, on complaint of any two members, be tried before the next Convention, and, if found guilty, shall be expelled by a vote of two thirds of the members then present; and the same shall be published in one or more papers published in the county where the said offender may reside. It shall likewise be the duty of persons intending to make a complaint against a brother practitioner, to notify him of the same, at least six weeks before the session of the Convention at which such complaint is to be made; and the same shall not be made public until the case has been tried, on pain of being expelled.

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|-------------------|--------------------|
| Samuel Thomson | Asa McCollum |
| William Wyman | Marmaduke Mason |
| Geo. A. Chapman | J. A. Brown |
| Isaac J. Sperry | D. G. Chace |
| James Shepley | William W. Wilson |
| Pardon Lapham | Oliver Cook |
| Bennett W. Sperry | Horace Robinson |
| John Morgridge | Samuel Smith |
| Alfred Brown | S. S. Wilder |
| Ralph Rugg | George E. Merrill |
| Thomas Annis | C. W. Martin |
| Jesse W. Nichols | M. Mattson |
| Jonas W. Chapman | Alexander Scammell |
| Charles Gardner | Thomas Howarth |
| Nathl. S. Magoon | Oliver E. Taber |
| John R. Patten | Jacob Jenkins |
| P. F. Sweet | Artemas Farwell |

ADULTERATED MEDICINES.—We feel it an imperative duty again to repeat the oft-reiterated caution to our friends and the public, to beware of spurious or adulterated medicines. We have recently seen cayenne which appeared more like Spanish Brown, than like the pure article; and on testing it by burning, the ashes, which remained to about one third of the amount subjected to the test, had the precise appearance of the finest jet black sand—whereas the ashes of pure cayenne is perfectly white. The cayenne of which this was a sample, was probably adulterated with red lead and logwood—whether for the purpose of improving its original appearance, or to convince the people of "the deleterious effects of Thomsonian medicine," as the Doctors have it, we cannot say. We have before us too, a letter dated Enfield, Ct. Nov. 6, in which the writer says he "finds it very difficult to obtain any Thomsonian medicine in a pure state." We have no means of doing more than thus to caution the public.

The Proceedings of the several Conventions and Societies, with which a large portion of this number is occupied, expels much matter of more general interest. We shall endeavor in future numbers to make up for present deficiencies.

GRAVEL.—A decoction of the bark of gooseberry root is said to be good for the gravel.

THE BOSTON HERALD AND WARD No. 4.—The first of the annexed paragraphs, is a reply to the remarks of the editors of the Herald, which were appended to the "Challenge" copied into our last number, from that paper: and following it, is the rejoinder of the editors.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—You say, in a note appended to my communication, "that our correspondent may be capable of swallowing a large quantity of Thomsonian medicine, is no proof of its virtues." Is it no proof whether they are poison or not? If it is not, I know not what *test* you require. You say, also, "and we have seen men who could eat fire—and even survive after entering a hot oven." Does not this prove too much for your side—supposing you take sides against me? If men can do these things, is it reasonable to suppose that simple cayenne can burn a man up—even to a crisp—as certain wiseacres pretend? If so, how extremely comfortable we might keep ourselves alongside a barrel of cayenne and a bottle of hot-drops during the long succeeding winter!

WARD No. 4.

Our correspondent does not seem to understand the nature of medicine. We suppose, logically speaking, one of two things—either that the stuff which the Thomsonian practitioners give is effective or not effective in operating upon the human system. Now, if it be not effective, then the administering such medicine is a mockery—if it be effective, then a large quantity must have more effect than a small one, and a dose may be taken sufficient to kill a horse! Because some men can swallow fire, it is no proof that all can—neither is it a proof that it is desirable to administer fire to the whole human family. Moreover, a barrel of cayenne and a bottle of hot drops *may* heat one internally, while the exterior of the body may be inclined to freeze, perhaps to death. Ward No. 4 must reason more closely or he will lose ground. The Thomsonian practice may do in some cases, in experienced hands, but it is now practised to a great extent by persons who do not know the difference between a nerve and a vein.—[*Editors of the Herald.*]

"Ward No. 4" replied to the above rejoinder in the following article,—but from some motives not explained farther than by saying "*it was too long*"—the editors of the Herald refused to publish it!

How they could honorably do this, after pretending they were about to make an "*exposition of Thomsonism*," is more than we can with certainty explain—especially after publishing, as they have recently done, strictures upon the practice, most wilfully and maliciously false and unjust. We may say, however, on the whole, that we are by no means disappointed at such a result, although their show of apparent justice to Thomsonians, by the admission into their columns of a single argument in favor of our principles, led us to expect more than we had any reason to hope from such a source: for so far from openly and honorably confessing their total ignorance of the merits or demerits of the system, which they privately have been obliged to admit—they have seemed to court opportunity to traduce and belie its effects. They have done this, we have sometimes thought, not because they believed Thomsonism to be so very bad in itself, but because they hoped, perhaps, to raise the wind a little, in the shape of advertisements

from the injured party. But they may rest assured, if they entertain such an idea, that they are quite too late in their calculations, as Thomsonians have paid money enough, in that way, already, to disabuse the public respecting their theory and practice, and will not be in a very great hurry to pay any more. Possibly, however, we are mistaken in these suspicions, and it may be owing to their fear of the ire of the faculty, that induces the Editors thus to close the columns of their paper against their correspondent's reply: or, finding it harder to answer than those preceding it, they chose to refuse its publication, and thus lead the public to suppose their correspondent had "backed out." If either of these be the reason, it would, in our estimation, have been far more creditable for the Editors honestly to have acknowledged them as such, instead of receding from their implied promise to hear the defence of those whom they had falsely accused.

As for such a miserable excuse as the one given, that the article was "*too long*"—all editors, at least, know the emptiness and falsity of such an objection, and that it is never used but as a cover to some motive far different from that alleged. And besides, the reader will easily see that the article is not much more than half the length of the one first inserted; and also, which renders their objection still more unreasonable, that "Ward No. 4" plainly intimated in concluding the article, his indisposition to continue the discussion.

The annexed is the "rejected" article.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—When I penned my first article for the Herald, I did not mean to be understood, and I am sure I did not so state it, that any *antidote* was to be taken on either side, as your remarks would seem to imply. Neither in argument do I calculate to carry matters to *extremes*. I presume there is no one who would question the correctness of your proposition, connected with my last. But, (if we do not go to extremes,) I deny the correctness of the conclusion which you have drawn from the premises. You have taken it for granted, if I understand it, that the medicines are poisonous. Such is not the fact. Therefore, if more than a proper or sufficient dose is administered, the overplus is thrown off by the action of the medicine itself, without leaving any such deleterious effects as would calomel, antimony, arsenic, opium, and other poisons. I still contend, and,—unless convinced that whatever has a tendency to destroy life, is competent to cure disease,—shall continue to believe, that the Thomsonian remedies are the most simple and efficacious of any known, for the removal of disease; and that the fact of their not embracing *any* poisonous articles whatever, and their perfect innocence in *all* cases, renders them the safest and best that can be possibly be found to keep in a family. We all know the necessity of having remedial agents always at hand. But if we are to keep the "stuff" used by the regular faculty, most of which they are obliged to label "POISON—BE CAREFUL"—and, as Dr. Fordyce says, (a regular, by the way,) "*an error of half a grain frequently destroys life*," we shall have to continue to be under the necessity of "sending for the doctor" for every ail, (and look out for a *spell*, if your purse is long!) whose province seems to be to give just enough *not to kill*, and let nature and time do the rest. This is one reason why the doctors are so opposed the Thom-

sonian system. It enables every one to be *his own* doctor.

In proof of my remark that the Thomsonian remedies are the most efficacious known in removing disease, I refer you to the different Infirmeries in this city, one of which, out of upwards of *four thousand* patients, has lost only ONE. You can also be furnished with a list of the names of the patients. I doubt not you might find some of your personal friends among them. You say, "it may do in *some* cases." The reference above will, I think, satisfy you that it will do in *some considerable many* cases. You say also, "in experienced hands." It has been said that the great body of Thomsonian practitioners are ignorant and inexperienced. Their uniform success is the best reply to your argument. Please to bear in mind however, that I do not advocate having any and every body, ignorant or not, as practitioners to the Infirmeries.

If a Thomsonian practitioner loses a patient, it is immediately known from "Dan to Beersheba." If the patient has been buried, the doctors (and editors) will not rest, till the body has been exhumed, a post mortem examination had, and an inquest held on it! thus virtually admitting that no one *ought* to die, when treated by these remedies.

From documents in my possession, I can safely say, that more than one million of patients are treated under this system annually: and the average number of deaths in the same space of time are less than one hundred. I think better *proof* of the efficacy of the system cannot be desired by reasonable men.

Being a laboring man, Messrs. Editors, I have not the time to spend in *writing* articles for a public print, much less to *prepare* such articles as might tend to elucidate any subject. Neither do I consider myself a *champion* of any cause. I only speak of this, as I know by experience. I consider the only good resulting from a discussion, a tendency to create enquiry. And when any subject is properly examined, people generally form just conclusions. "*Truth is great, and will prevail.*" There are now a large number of publications in favor of the Botanic cause, (one in this city,) to which I would respectfully refer all interested.

Respectfully yours,

WARD No. 4.

RHEUMATISM.—The season of the year has again returned in which cripples may be seen hobbling through the streets upon their crutches, afflicted by rheumatic or gouty complaints. They are to be pitied, first, for their misfortune in being troubled with so painful a malady, and again, because they do not know how easily they might be cured. No disease so readily submits, and is so easily cured by the botanic treatment as this. Under the operation of the emetics, enemas, and the steam bath, the pains of this disorder are speedily removed, and the gross humors are expelled from the system, leaving it free of all noxious incumbrances. There is a great similarity between gout and rheumatism, and one is about as easily cured as the other. The steam bath, by creating a profuse perspiration, throws out the gouty matter, and gives immediate relief; and the other Thomsonian medicines secure the victory gained. He who will go limping through the streets, or hobbling upon crutches, because of gout or rheumatism, has no excuse to plead, but ignorance or prejudice.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MAINE STATE SOCIETY—MONOPOLIES.

Hallowell, Me., October 12, 1837.

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Sir: Agreeable to previous notice, the Thomsonians of this State held a convention in Bangor on the 25th and 26th of September, and formed a State society, under the name of the "*Thomsonian Medical Society of the State of Maine.*" We found some who did not wish your name attached to it,(1) but there were enough to carry the day in favor of correct principles. * * We have drawn up a petition to the legislature to grant us an *act of incorporation*,(2) agreeable to the conditions set forth in our constitution, which will be attached to the petition. We have 600 copies of a petition to spread into the different towns for signatures, to do away the blue-law of this state, or so modify it that Thomsonians can have the same privileges as their fellow citizens.(3) We should have been much pleased to have had your presence and counsels at said convention; the notice was short or I should have written and requested your attendance. Should we get an act of incorporation, due notice will be given in the *Mechanic and Farmer*, printed in Bangor, the columns of which are open to Thomsonian matter; and should your business be such that you could, we should be pleased to have you attend our organization.(4) Your system is gaining in this section. We want some one to give lectures on the same; this would give information to some who do not come in contact with it in any other way.

Yours, &c. NICHOLAS SMITH.

- (1) Why not form a society of their own, then?
- (2) Of what possible benefit can be an act of incorporation to the public? Will it make the operation of lobelia or other medicines any more effective? If not, why is it coveted?
- (3) What is the use of doing away one blue-law, if another is to be instituted in its stead? We ask for no privileges; we only want fair play and our rights. Neither is our opposition to blue-laws to be overcome by modifications exclusively in our favor. We ask for nothing to which all are not entitled, and which we would not willingly grant to all—freedom and fair competition. It is the antiphlogistic craft, and not Thomsonians, who require the support of law-legs and dog-latin.
- (4) It is very doubtful, among the many calls upon his attention, whether the Doctor would be able to attend under any circumstances: but in no event would he attend and countenance the organization of a corporation similar to those which during his whole life he has been at war with. He is no more in favor of such corporations under the Thomsonian system, than any other. Their tendency is eventually to deceive the public, and to cry down those who spurn their dictation. Let his friends remember this, and pardon the freedom of our speech.—[ED. MAN.]

TESTIMONY OF A REGULAR PHYSICIAN.

Point Pleasant, Tippecanoe co., Ind., Oct. 6, 1837.

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Dear Sir: I take the liberty through the medium of this letter, to address you, as the father of the Friendly Botanic Society of the United States. Although remotely situated in the far off West, at a

long distance from the old land of steady habits, yet the sound of medical liberty has reached our ears.

Some fifteen or twenty years ago, while a resident of the State of New York, (Onondaga co.) I became acquainted with your son, Cyrus, and witnessed his indictments, his trials by law, and his honorable acquittal. At that time I was, and had been for ten years, a "regular" or old school practitioner. But his patience and resignation in the hour of difficulty and danger—his honorable exposition and unshaken confidence in your system of practice, planted the seeds of discontent and investigation deep in my bosom, which, after a lapse of two years, ended in the sacrifice of *scientific* pride on the altar of universal benevolence to mankind. In short I purchased of him a Right and a set of books, which enabled me by one years' study, to become a better physician than three years' study and ten years' practice upon the old school theories.

Since 1825, I have resided in three different states—have been in all those places a firm adherent to the system of medical botany, to the total exclusion of all minerals of every description whatever. My success has surpassed all previous expectation; my loss of patients during thirteen years having not exceeded two per year, although my practice has been constant and extensive, and like all other botanic physicians have had to encounter almost all of the difficult and far-gone cases within my acquaintance.

I have succeeded in forming societies in many different places, and been called to preside over them with more heartfelt joy than in any other way could have been secured to me. But to whom am I boasting? I hope not to any one: but in an hour of leisure I am unbosoming my mind to one that I must ever consider my friend and the friend of the human family. I cannot ask you to notice this so far as to return an answer, as I am well aware that thousands better penned are every day falling unanswered into oblivion.(1)

Enclosed are \$5, for which please forward to Point Pleasant post office, as above, an appointment(2) of agency for the Manual, together with the customary number of copies, and you will oblige the members of the Friendly Botanic Society whom I have the honor to represent.

Yours, &c.

STEPHEN BUTTS.

(1) Dr. B. is right in supposing that it would be impossible for Dr. Thomson to answer all the letters with which he is favored,—but he is not the less gratified to receive them.

(2) The Dr. will see that we have inserted his name in our list of agents,—this is all that is necessary.—[ED. MAN.]

"PHYSIC."—The plan of giving purgatives (remarks Dr. J. W. Comfort) for the cure of disease, cannot be too much avoided. They sap the very foundation of life—they derange the secretions—they fail to promote a healthy action in the liver—they weaken the fibrous coat of the intestines, thereby diminishing the peristaltic motion; and obstinate constipation is sure to follow.

NEW AGENTS FOR DR. THOMSON.

Jesse W. Nichols, Enfield, Ct.

William Johnson, Boston, Ms.

Ebenezer Small, Thomaston, Me.

PROPOSALS

FOR CONTINUING THE PUBLICATION OF THE
THOMSONIAN RECORDER,
BY M. L. LEWIS, LOUISVILLE, KY.

"Let mystery be stripp'd of all pretence,
"And practice be combined with common sense."

To many this Prospectus will appear strange—But be it known and remembered, that the Thomsonian Recorder published in Columbus, Ohio, by Dr. Curtis, is virtually *dead*, or the Thomsonian part of it; and that paper is now known by the scientific name of "*Botanico-Medical Recorder*." Having been instrumental in the birth of the Recorder, I feel attached to the name, and am not willing to have it, "*like a loathsome weed, thrown away*." It is a name that is dear to every true Thomsonian; and as Dr. Curtis himself said, he had no objection to my saving it, I presume he will have no unfriendly feelings towards me for issuing this prospectus. I wish not to come in collision with the Doctor; for I must here acknowledge, that he is abundantly capable of advancing the cause of Thomsonism, if he will.

I am a Thomsonian in principle and practice. I have tested and proved the Doctor's science to be true; and consider it a privilege to advocate it; and can truly say, I am not ashamed of it because of its simplicity. Complication and amalgamation are not the products of this invaluable mode of healing the sick. The more you become acquainted with it, the more simple and beautiful it appears. This fact has been proved by all who have closely adhered to the principles laid down by our Venerable Father.

TERMS.—The Recorder will be published once in two weeks, on a super-royal sheet, octavo form. A title-page and index will accompany each volume. The price will be Two Dollars, payable in advance.

There will be a number of the paper published in a few days, but it will not be considered a specimen number. A part of it was in press before I was informed of the above named change. The second number will make its appearance as soon as a return of subscribers' names takes place, and there is sufficient encouragement for me to go on with the work. I hope those who are interested in the preservation of the *Thomsonian Recorder* will use their exertions to forward subscriptions, by mail, and also the money for the same.

Louisville, Ky., October 24, 1837.

Subscriptions will be received at this office for the *Thomsonian Recorder*, and likewise for the *Botanic Sentinel* in Philadelphia. Also for all genuine Thomsonian periodicals.—[Ed. Man.]

NEW AGENTS FOR THE MANUAL.

Dr. Nicholas Smith, Hallowell, Me.

Dr. Stephen Butts, Point Pleasant, Tippecanoe county, Indiana.

Dr. Jesse W. Nichols, Enfield, Ct.

THE THOMSONIAN MANUAL will be issued on the 1st and 15th of each month, in *Boston, Mass.*

By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, Printer and Publisher.

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.

TERMS—ONE DOLLAR per volume, or Two DOLLARS per annum, IN ADVANCE. Subscriptions to commence with the current volume.

Persons wishing to become *Agents*, by forwarding us *ten dollars*, will be appointed as such, and be entitled to a copy *gratis*, for one year.

Address Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, (*post paid*), No. 40, Salem-street, Boston.

THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME III.]

BOSTON, DECEMBER 15, 1837.

[NUMBER 4.]

EXTRACTS FROM AN ESSAY ENTITLED THOUGHTS ON THE CHANGES AND THEIR CAUSES, WHICH ARE PERPETUALLY OC- CURRING IN MATERIAL CREATION.

BY CHARLES CALDWELL,

Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Clinical Prac-
tice, in Transylvania University.

There is reason to believe, that perpetual change is a fundamental requisite, and a never-failing phenomenon, in the condition of the UNIVERSE. * * * By far the most varied and curious, beautiful and interesting changes in matter are those that are manifested by the multitude of living organized beings, which constitute the vegetable and animal kingdoms. Of the immensity in number of these mutations, some conception may be formed from the fact, that they are as numerous as all the various phenomena exhibited by the untold myriads of individual living beings, vegetable and animal, that people our globe. For, extravagant as to some perhaps the assertion may appear, there are no two living beings precisely alike. Each one bears the mark of some change or modification of matter peculiar to itself.

The sources and grounds of the changes that occur in living matter, are numerous. They begin with birth, are manifested in growth and decay, and consummated in death. After death, the body becomes again the subject of the principles and laws of chemistry.

The great instruments or rather means of the changes effected in the system of living beings, are digestion and nutrition, secretion and excretion, absorption and intellection. On the operation of each of these, let me offer a few remarks.

Let me previously, however, ask why it is that the departments of chemistry and mechanics are considered completely insulated, and distinct from each other? I answer, because, in their operations, they never interlock; and because the principles and laws of the one can never produce the changes, nor exhibit the phenomena, that belong to the other. Hence, no one has ever alleged, or even suspected, that, in any process, they operate in common. On the contrary, they, in most, if not in all cases oppose each other. The application of this will appear hereafter.

The changes which are effected in digestion and nutrition are striking and specific; such as never do or can occur elsewhere, because the processes themselves are specific, having no affinity or resemblance to any other. And from specific causes specific effects must necessarily issue. The powers which these processes possess and manifest, might be almost, without a figure, denominated *creative*. Plastic and convertive they certainly are, in a very eminent degree. Compound substances of one kind they convert into compounds of another, so totally different as to retain no similitude to those out of which they were formed. As relates to them, metamorphosis is no fable. In our own race, they convert common masses of dead alimentary matter into the symmetry and beauty, and endow it with all the energies, of the human system. The most exquisitely beautiful

and lovely of our race, are but manufactures from the viands that cover our tables. What would seem most extraordinary is, that it matters but little of what description or character those viands are. Whether they are fish, flesh, or fowl, animal or vegetable, simple or multiplex, dressed plainly or in the highest style of art, the result is the same. They are converted into the curious being called man. Undergoing solution, peculiar in its kind, they are changed first into a white, and then into a crimson fluid, characterized by the elegancies and excellences of the human frame. Were it not that familiarity takes from this metamorphosis its force and impressiveness, it might be deemed miraculous. To spread on a festive board a course of common elementary fare, and seat, at the head of it, a living Venus de Medici, in the vivacity of youth, the bloom of health, and the pride of beauty, and assert that the former could be converted into the latter, would be pronounced a fiction of the wildest character, had not the experience of all time established its truth. And yet, as will appear, hereafter, some pseudo-philosophers have the folly and hardihood to pronounce this chemistry. As well might they contend, in their frenzy of hypotheses, that all the sublime intellectual operations of a Newton, a Leibnitz, and a Milton, were nothing but the ebullitions of an acid and an alkali. The very conception is treason against science and nature.

If we direct our observation to the lower orders of animals, even to those of the insect tribes, we shall find the changes effected in them by digestion and nutrition no less striking. Perhaps they may seem in some cases more so.

In many of those animals that subsist wholly on liquids there is much solid matter; and no small amount of fluids in those whose food is solid and dry.

The humming-bird, and at least one species of the bird of paradise, sip, as their aliment, the saccharine but liquid and colorless secretion of the nectary of flowers. Yet do they possess bone, and muscle, and gland, and skin, and plumage of the most beautiful texture, and as gorgeous in coloring as the bow in the heavens.

Some butterflies are believed to banquet only on the most highly rectified and purest dew. Yet have they, in their bodies, no small amount of solid matter; while, in the exquisiteness of texture, and the richness and variegated tints and lustre of their wings, they set at defiance the language of description, and surpass even the highest execution of the pencil.

The common moth subsists on dry hair and wool, and the annobium maculatum, on the most perfectly seasoned wood; yet has each, in its system, a considerable amount of liquid matter. The same is true of the terrellum marmoreum, and the terrellum saxosum, although, as its name imports, the former subsists exclusively on marble, and the latter on stone of a different character. Nor do the marble and stone resemble any more the animal fluids and solids, into which they are thus converted, than they do solids and fluids of any other kind. So wonderful is the metamorphosis, in animal nature, effected by the processes of digestion and nutrition. And yet, I repeat,

that some men have the presumption and folly to denominate it chemistry.

Nor, in the vegetable kingdom, are the changes produced by digestion and nutrition, less striking and beautiful.

Some plants feed exclusively on water, many depend for much of their food on the atmosphere, and not a few derive from that source their entire subsistence. Other plants extract, by roots, from the soil, the chief part, if not the whole of the materials that nourish them. Yet are these several families of plants equally healthy, vivacious, and flourishing; and, when subjected to analysis, are found to consist of the same elementary ingredients. This is no less true of plants that grow in different soils, and different atmospheres, remote from each other, than of those that grow in clusters in the same atmosphere, and the same soil. The elements that compose them are the same, and exist in the same relative proportions. Nor do vegetables exhibit, in their composition, any more of the elementary ingredients of their native soil, than they do of soils incapable of producing them. So entire is the change they effect on what nourishes them.

It is now, perhaps, the universal opinion of the most enlightened phytologists, and appears to be founded in truth, that many plants which seek stability, by rooting themselves in the ground, derive from thence no particle of nutriment. This is the case with some of the palms and canes, and not a few others of the most succulent plants of tropical climates. It is, in a particular manner, true of a great variety of those productions of the vegetable kingdom, which embellish, by the elegances of their form, and the splendors of their color, the arid plains of the Cape of Good Hope. In that parched region of the globe, no rain falls, except during a few weeks in the winter, when active vegetation does not exist.

During the summer and only productive months, so arid is the soil, that no portion of either moisture or vegetable nutriment can be extracted from it. Yet is the vegetable kingdom luxuriant and flourishing, almost beyond example. On the atmosphere alone, then, and the dews that fall, must the plants depend for all their nourishment. Heavy falls of rain, which have been known, on rare occasions to occur, prove highly injurious to them. The *Solandra grandiflora*, a beautiful flowering shrub of Jamaica, derives its nourishment solely from the atmosphere, in a parched soil, and is injured by adscititious supplies of water.

Many species of the genus cactus, of which the common prickly pear is one, depend for nutriment exclusively on the atmosphere. Although a sandy, barren soil affords them fixture, it gives them no food. They live on the air and the moisture it contains. Hence, when completely deracinated, and suspended by cords, they continue to grow and flourish with vigor. And they yield, on analysis, the same component parts, whether they are connected with the earth, or hanging in air.

But perhaps the most remarkable instance of atmospherical subsistence, that can be placed on record, occurs in the case of the *epidendrum aerium*, an oriental plant of great beauty and exquisite fragrance. It is a native of Java, and India beyond the Ganges. At once to adorn and perfume their apartments, it is the practice of the inhabitants to pluck it up by the roots, and suspend it from their ceilings, by silken cords, richly ornamented by tufts and tassels. In this con-

dition it is never even moistened by water, but subsists exclusively on the atmosphere around it. Yet does it continue to flourish in health and vigor, for many years, putting forth periodically, fresh leaves and flowers, and pouring out copious streams of the most delightful fragrance. * * *

One of the most luxuriant and celebrated plants that the earth produces, is known to subsist principally on water, and to form out of it all the elements it contains. It is the lotus of the Nile. So rare in beauty, and so delicious in fragrance, that, in the language of poetry, its very name is identified with voluptuous enjoyment, and so choice in all things, that it has been presented as an acceptable offering to the gods, that plant derives its nourishment, and forms, by mutative energies, all its attributes, chiefly from the turbid waters of its parent river. A change more striking is scarcely to be found in material creation.

In the kingdom of living matter, secretion is another process abundant and diversified in the curious mutations and conversions it produces. The substance in which those changes are effected, is the blood of animals, and the sap-juice of vegetables; in each case the source of nourishment to the being possessing it.

As the blood of animals is a fluid very strikingly different from the alimentary articles out of which it is formed, so are the secreted fluids, derived from it, no less different from the fountain that yields them.

They are, in the higher orders of animals, the gastric and pancreatic juices, bile, mucus, saliva, tears, oil, fat, semen masculinum, cerumen (or ear-wax), perspirable and menstrual matter, the synovial fluid (of the joints), the humors of the eye, the black pigment which imparts color to the skin of the African, and the nervous fluid, supposing it to have an existence. To these may be added musk, castor, the offensive fluid emitted by the polecat, and a few other odorous matters which need not be recited.

Descending to the inferior orders of animal existence, we find there, the inky fluid of the cuttlefish, the electricity of the torpedo and the gymnotus electricus, the various poisons of the serpent tribe, and those of the scorpion, the tarantula, the asp, and other kinds of venomous insects and reptiles. All these are secreted matters, and results of changes produced by vital action on the blood. A fluid *sui generis*, perfectly dissimilar to all others, is thus, by secretory economy, converted into numerous other fluids, neither possessing between themselves the slightest mutual family likeness, nor any likeness to their parent source. In each of these secreted liquors are ingredients found, which no analysis can detect in the blood.

Out of the blood, moreover, is prepared, by what may be correctly denominated a secretory process, the matter of bone, cartilage, tendon, muscle, nerve, brain, skin, hair, nail, and every other solid substance of which the body consists. This is another very striking instance of the multifarious product of vital action from a single fluid.

From the blood or sap-juice of vegetables, which like the blood of animals, is a specific fluid, is also generated, by secretory action, a great variety of compound substances, equally different from each other, and from their parental source.

These are gums, resins, balsams, and oils, both bland and essential, camphor, asafoetida, and gum elastic, each of them a substance peculiar in char-

acter,—all matters of color and odor, as the green of leaves, and the innumerable hues and fragrance of flowers, bitter, acid, acrid, and saccharine juices, and the entire catalogue of vegetable poisons. Among poisonous juices may be mentioned those of the poppy, the tobacco plant, the datura stramonium, the nightshade, the henbane, the hellebore, and many others, some of them natives of our own, and some of foreign countries.

All these are secreted substances, formed, by vital action, from the sap-juice of vegetables, and as different from it, as they are from each other. As far as its character is known, the real blood or nutritious liquor of every plant, like the blood of every animal, is bland and innocuous, and exhibits none of the peculiar and deleterious qualities, which belong to many of the substances formed from it by secretion. The real sap-juice of the poppy has in it no opium, that of the sugar-cane and sugar-maple, no saccharine matter, nor has that of the mimosa nilotica any gum arabic. The same is true of our muskmelon and watermelon vines. In the latter there is nothing sweet, and in the former nothing fragrant. It is secretion alone, that gives those delicious qualities to the fruit which they produce.

A more complete and delightful metamorphosis the poet has never *imagined*, in his moments of inspiration, than that which the lotus, the jessamine, the magnolia, and the rose actually *effect*, when they take up matter, which, far from being attractive to either of the senses, is indifferent or offensive, and convert it, by their peculiar action, into the surpassing beauty and fragrance of their blossoms. I repeat what I have heretofore uttered, that did not observation assure us of the reality of this change, we would regard it as a fable.

Before dismissing the consideration of the changes produced in living matter by digestion, nutrition, and secretion, a few thoughts on their causes will not, I flatter myself, be unacceptable to you.

As relates to the causes of the changes which occur in living matter, or the principles and laws by which those changes are produced and governed, three distinct hypotheses are maintained. These are the *chemical*, the *vital*, and the *chemico-vital*.

The first alleges that, both in its origin, changes, and dissolution, living matter is completely under the influence and governance of chemical principles; and that, therefore, in reality, every living body is nothing more than a chemical laboratory.

The second hypothesis places living matter, with all the changes and phenomena it exhibits, under the exclusive control of principles denominated *vital*. Those principles and laws it pronounces to be insulated, and, in all respects, as essentially different, and as radically distinct, from the principles and laws of chemistry, as they are from those denominated mechanical.

The third hypothesis professes to be a compromise between the other two, and like most midway courses, is time-serving and unsteady. Its advocates are aptly denominated *chemico-physiologists*. The term is appropriate, and denotes very happily the character of those to whom it is applied.

Those dogmatical expounders of nature become the victims of their own policy. By aiming at too much, they forfeit the standing in science, which they might otherwise attain. Their grasping ambition impels them to make an effort to render the do-

main of chemistry coextensive with the limits of matter. In their estimate of things, that science is necessarily concerned, in every change that occurs among the elementary particles of compound bodies.

Convinced, however, not only of the impossibility of explaining, but of the absurdity of attempting to explain, by means of chemistry, all the changes and phenomena that living matter exhibits, and, at the same time determined not to abandon their unfounded claim on that elevated and beautiful department of nature, the "chemico-physiologists" have endeavored to make that incongruous mixture of *immiscible agents*, from which they have so fitly derived their appellation. "True, say they, the various processes of living matter, such as digestion, assimilation, nutrition, and secretion, are not performed exclusively by chemical agency. They are functions partly chemical and partly vital. The changes they exhibit, therefore, in elementary matter, are the result of a co-operation of different principles."

Let us examine, for a moment, these propositions. Let us analyze them, and weigh them fairly in the balance of reason and sound philosophy, and see whether they are sterling in quality, and competent in weight; or whether, on the contrary, they are not counterfeit, in the one, and wanting in the other.

The principles of chemistry and vitality are universally acknowledged to be different from each other. Many who have studied them very zealously, and perhaps I might say profoundly, consider them as opposites. Facts are not wanting, which seem to indicate that they are so. They are engaged, according to the hypothesis we are examining, in the performance of the same animal function. But they cannot be engaged on equal terms, else they would greatly interrupt, if not completely neutralize each other. They would be a house divided against itself, which "cannot stand."

The elementary particles of living matter cannot obey, at once, the laws of chemistry and the laws of vitality. They must choose which of the two they will serve, and, in doing this, they must cleave to the one, and reject the other. This is no paradox, or tissue of sophistry. It is sober common sense. It is primitive truth. A common and divided influence is a neutralized influence; or, rather, it is no influence at all. Nothing decisive can ever be effected by it.

Do chemical principles predominate, in the functions of living matter? The "chemico-physiologists" will not answer affirmatively. Truth compels even *them*, to reply in the negative, otherwise the functions would not be designated by the term *living*. Then must vital principles and laws predominate, and chemistry becomes, in these functions, a nullity and a name. It becomes precisely what vitality makes it. But vitality metamorphoses entirely its workings and results and hence it is chemistry no longer.

We confess, say again the "chemico-physiologists" that digestion, nutrition, and secretion are processes, in which *ordinary* chemistry mingles not its influence. They are the results of *animal* and *vegetable* chemistry.

It is, then, come to this! Have these self-constituted philosophical potentates, who aim to be lords of material creation, and to subject the whole to chemical supremacy, fallen thus ingloriously from their "high-estate" to take shelter under the subterfuge of a mere name? Do they imagine that a word can *be made* to alter the nature of that which it disig-

nates? that they can change the process by changing its appellation? The trick is too shallow and cannot avail them. It is a feeble and disingenuous bartering of substances for shadow; an abandonment of sense for a substitution of sound.

By this "precious confession" they have conceded every thing, and are a body militant no longer. They have acknowledged that the processes of digestion, assimilation, nutrition, and secretion cannot be performed by ordinary chemistry; and that is all for which the vitalists contend. By animal and vegetable chemistry can be meant nothing else than a system of operations and functions governed by animal and vegetable laws; and that is *vitalism*. It is a positive acknowledgement that, in living organized matter, the changes which occur are the offspring of principles and laws, insulated in extent, specific in character, and as distinct from chemistry as they are from mechanics.

If the animo-vegeto-chemical philosophers will define their science to be, a series of changes among the elementary particles of living matter, governed by laws possessing different powers, operating under different circumstances, and producing different results, from the laws of the ordinary chemistry of dead matter, then shall I cease to be their opponent in fact, although I shall still contend, that their nomenclature is unfortunate, because it tends to the propagation of error. But as long as they continue to identify it, in the slightest degree, with the common chemistry of their laboratories, I shall deem it my duty to expose their fallacy, and counteract the contaminating influence of their opinions, by every fair expedient I can devise, and every honest exertion I can make. And, without pretending either to the spirit of prophecy, or any uncommon degree of sagacity, I fearlessly tell them, that their hypothesis will be dissipated, by the increasing lights of science, as the shadows of night retreat from the sun. [To be continued.]

LEGISLATURE OF VERMONT.

REMARKS OF MR. HAYWARD OF SHAFTSBURY, ON THE BILL TO REPEAL THE ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC AND SURGERY.

The bill having been referred to the Committee on Education, who reported that it ought not to pass, and the question being on concurrence in the report, Mr. Hayward spoke as follows:

Mr. Speaker—As I introduced the bill now to be acted on, I ask the attention of the house for a few moments to the considerations that led me to bring forward the measure. And I ought in the first place to bring to the notice of the house a fact that must lessen very considerably the weight of the unfavorable report which the Committee on Education have made upon the bill. The leading members of the committee happen to be *Doctors*, and, as might be expected, a measure like the one before you, striking at the *Doctors'* monopoly, has met the common treatment to all subjects that fall into their hands—it has been bled and purged down to death's door, and if it be not killed outright, we need not thank those who have applied to it the lancet and the pill-box. I confess, Sir, I was not careful to look into the constitution of the committee, before moving the reference of the bill to it, but, as it is, I must invoke the aid of the house in rescuing my bill from the fate to which the professional blood-letters have doomed it.

The object of the bill under consideration is to re-

peal the act of 1820, which annuls all contracts of compensation for medical services rendered by any other than a regularly licensed member of the medical Faculty. My objections to that are briefly stated. I believe, sir, that it is repugnant to the Constitution of the United States, prohibiting the passage of laws "impairing the obligation of contracts." I am no lawyer, and am wholly unacquainted with any technical rules of construction, but according to my plain understanding, the act destroys the obligation of contracts that are fair, just and equitable. The sick man applies to one in whose science and skill he has confidence; he employs him to bestow his time and attention in his care; he is relieved of his disease and restored to health, and he promises to pay a reasonable sum for these services. Here is a contract founded on a meritorious consideration; on every principle of justice it ought to be enforced, but under the operation of this act it is avoided. For one, sir, I do not believe that it is in the power of any legislature to interfere in this way with the pursuits of the citizens, and to annul their contracts for wages fairly and justly earned.

I am opposed to this act, because I regard it as conferring privileges on a few which ought to be open to all. It is against the Constitution of this State. I will read to you from the 7th article of the bill of rights: 'Government is instituted for the common benefit, protection and security of the people, nation or community, and not for the particular emolument or advantage of any single man, family or set of men.' The practice of medicine in this State, has become a monopoly. I know there are gentlemen whose delicate nerves are shocked at this word, *monopoly*. They hate the *name*, but love the *thing*. From such gentlemen, I expect no aid in an effort to abolish the special privileges of any favored order. The true character of this act is to favor the rich: in proof of this, look at its operation. The rich man's son is sent to your medical institutions—he pays his fees for lectures that he hears or does not hear,—'tis all the same—money buys him a diploma—he is licensed to draw blood, to puke and purge mankind, at such price as he is pleased to demand. Without talents, learning or discretion, he is the favorite of your law—and why? Because, sir, your law respects not talents or learning—it respects only the diploma and the money that bought it. How is it with the poor man's son? He may possess talents of the highest rank—thanks to a beneficent God, the odious distinctions of human law are unknown in the order of His providence, but the path of honorable profession is closed against the child of poverty, for he has no money to buy the statutory passport to usefulness! Partial, wicked and corrupt laws doom him to servile and laborious employments, while the door to professional distinction is open only to the rich. Let artful politicians and the fawning sycophants of wealth disguise this matter as they will, the act is part and parcel of that grand system of monopoly that has taken deep root among us, pervading more or less every occupation and business of life—abolishing all fair, unfettered competition—degrading the test of merit to the money standard—pampering the rich, and depressing the poor. The learned Doctor before the Education Committee tells us of the example of France and England. *Mr. Speaker*, I do not like the sources of these examples: monarchies are not the governments from which we

ought to draw our maxims of legislation. Privileged classes and favored orders may be well suited to a monarchy, but they are repugnant to the genius of a free republic. We are told that this legalized monopoly is necessary to protect the community against quacks. Sir, the community ask for no protection—they need none. It is the Faculty that clamor for protection. With all their boasted superiority of skill and learning, they invoke the strong arm of the law to secure to themselves an exclusive patronage, which should be bestowed only on merit that can bear examination, rivalry and opposition.

The monopoly of medical practice is the more indefensible from the circumstance that the science to which it applies is wholly vague and uncertain. The Faculty, as we all know, are at variance in regard to the origin and nature of diseases and their modes of treatment. Nor is there any certainty in their prescriptions or predictions. In illustration of this, I will state what has fallen under my own observation. A few years ago, a sick lady in the town which I represent, was placed under the care of regular practitioners of medicine. She got no relief, but gradually declined. The most experienced of the regular bred physicians were called together to consult in regard to her disease. They met, and administered medicine, but to no good effect: they all agreed that she could not be cured, and must speedily die. The patient and her friends by this time were sick of their doctors, and having discharged them, (except one, who was requested to stand by to announce her death by the *quack*, should that be the result,) employed one of those who are called quacks by the Faculty. The upshot was, that before the time had elapsed when she ought to have died by the decision of the doctors, she was restored to health. Gentlemen can doubtless call to mind many instances of the same character. Indeed, sir, you may at any time put it to the learned doctors themselves, and you will be satisfied of the extreme uncertainty of all their knowledge, by the disagreement and disputes among them in respect to the most common cases in practice. They are all licensed to practice, but a great majority of them must necessarily be unsound in their notions. With what propriety then do you give a monopoly of practice to a class of men, who, for ought you know, are *all* in the wrong, and of whom eight in ten, as you certainly know, are guided by erroneous opinions.

Mr. Speaker, I am in favor of throwing open the pursuits and professions of life to an unrestrained competition. Restraint and monopoly are productive of nothing but evil. The principle above all others worthy to be inculcated is, that every man must be judged according to his own merits. Let him not rely on legislative favor or bounty: if he deserves to succeed, let all the impediments to success be removed; and if he has too little capacity to succeed against fair rivalry and competition, he is unworthy to be supported, and ought to fall.

BAD WORK—AN ANECDOTE.—A doctor once returned a coat to his tailor because it did not exactly fit him. The tailor afterwards seeing the doctor at the funeral of one of his patients, said to him, "Ah, doctor, you are a happy man!" "Why so?" inquired the M.D. "Because," said the tailor, "you never have any of your bad work returned upon your hands!" True enough.

[From the Bangor Mechanic and Farmer.]

BANGOR MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

We have before us a small pamphlet, entitled the "Constitution of the Bangor Medical Association, together with the Rules and Regulations of Police and Practice." It seems to be the developement of a system to sustain the Medical Profession; by the suppression of empiricism(?) and by holding on unitedly for a good fat "Fee-Bill"—and in other respects may be considered a laudatory, whitewashing apparatus, with a sprinkling of correct rules for good manners.

We are really anxious for an opportunity to say a handsome thing of the medical profession—as individuals, we respect them all, and could they act with less reference to a clanish disposition, we have no doubt they would occupy a much higher station than they now do, or will soon be likely to, by their present method. They are blind to this, and as a profession, expect to claim greater respect, reverence, and homage of society, than any other. It must be that the medical profession are lame and weak in their scientific attainments, or they never would be so fearful of falling, should they attempt to stand alone.

This book exposes the jealousy and want of confidence that exists among them, and shows some of the acts resorted to in gaining practice. Under the head of "Interferences," we are told that Doctors' "expectations of business and employment, should be founded on their degrees of qualifications, not on artifice and insinuation." Good. Why then fear the practice of others—why reply upon association—why not trust the people to find out these qualifications? Let your theory and practice agree, dear doctors.—"A certain undefinable species of *assiduities* and attentions, to families usually employing another [physician], is to be considered as beneath the dignity of a regular practitioner, and as making a mere trade of a learned(!) profession—and all officious interferences in cases of sickness in such families, evinces a meanness of disposition unbecoming the character of a physician or gentleman. No meddling inquiries should be made concerning them, nor hints given relative to the nature and treatment of the complaint, nor any selfish conduct pursued that directly or indirectly tends to weaken confidence in the attending physicians or surgeons."

Excellent. But suffer us to enquire if this just rule, and which every gentleman would readily acknowledge in all cases, is understood as extending to those not members of the Association? Is it intended to apply to those of a different practice? We have a motive in asking these questions, and if they are answered in the affirmative, we hope to see no more coaxing of a nurse not to attend a person until a certain Doctor shall be employed. We hope to see no more—But we will try and be generous.

"The use of quack medicines should be discouraged by the faculty, as disgraceful to the profession, injurious to health, and often destructive even of life." Now, what in the name of all that is orderly, are "quack medicines"? If our own opinion could settle this question, we should be willing to call them such medicines, the effect of which cannot be known until an experiment be made, and the operation of which depends entirely upon the state of the stomach, whether they act at all or operate with dangerous violence. If this definition is admitted as correct, all we have to say on the subject, is—good on your

heads—we agree with you—and the sale of calomel, with its ruinous effects of rotten bones, dislocated teeth, shattered nerves, and decomposed flesh, are abandoned and banished.

Ah, ha! Here is a precious little morsel for the people. Speaking of secret nostrums, the Association say, “if it be of real efficacy, the concealment of it is inconsistent with beneficence and professional liberality—and if mystery alone gives it value and importance, such craft implies either disgraceful ignorance, or fraudulent avarice.” This we call a pretty severe cut upon themselves, unless it be understood that a “divorce” has taken place between them and the people, and they shall not conceal from each other whatever they may do with their patients. Many a poor fellow has been cheated into taking a destructive medicine. But this faculty may have reformed.

With respect to the rules establishing fees, the Association say, “It should be deemed a point of honor to adhere to them, and every deviation from, or evasion of these rules, should be considered as meriting the indignation and contempt of the fraternity.”

In New York a while since, an Association was formed among journeymen tailors, ship carpenters, &c. for the purposes of establishing a fee bill, and when they undertook to show “indignation and contempt” to those who disregarded or evaded the rules, the judicial authorities meted out to them fine and imprisonment. But perhaps justice administered to a journeyman tailor or saddler, is quite another thing from that justice due to members of a “learned profession”!

We are not learned in the laws, but according to our common sense notions, the rules of the Bangor Medical Association, as published, are as objectionable, and the members of the Association as liable to be indicted before the Grand Jury, as the Journeymen Tailors in New York, and every principle of law as laid down by the judge on that occasion would apply.

We have published the Lawyers’ and Printers’ Fee Bill, both objectionable, and now give that of the physicians, which is still more so.

FEE BILL.

For a visit,	\$1 00
do. in consultation,	2 00
do. as associate physician,	1 00
do. on board a vessel,	1 50
do. and passing catheter,	2 00
do. and venesection [bleeding],	1 00
do. and extracting tooth,	1 00
do. and surgical service in slight wounds	
and ulcerations,	1 25
do. in the night,*	2 00
Travel per mile,	50
For rising and advice at office in the night,	1 50
“ surgical service at office in the night,	1 25
“ advice at office,	1 00
“ gonorrhœa,	10 00
“ recent cases of syphilis,	15 00
“ confirmed lues, in addition to \$15, visits and advice as in other cases.	

* The night, in this table, is considered as commencing at ten o’clock, P.M., and ending at five A.M., or at sunrise, when that is later than five o’clock.

Whenever it is necessary to make more than three visits to women after delivery, all additional visits shall be charged as in ordinary cases.

For midwifery, ordinary,	5 to 10 00
“ amputation of the thigh, leg, arm or forearm,	30 00
“ amputation at the shoulder or hip joint,	100 00
“ amputation of the toes or fingers,	5 00
“ lithotomy, [cutting for stone in bladder,]	100 00
“ trepanning skull,	25 00
“ extirpating mammæ, [breast,]	30 00
“ venesection at office,	50
“ extracting tooth, do.	50
“ hydrocele, [dropsy in scrotum,]	10 00
“ tapping chest,	20 00
“ do. abdomen,	10 00
“ dislocations, ordinary,	5 00
“ fractures, do.	5 00
“ hernia, [rupture,]	30 00
“ fistula in ano,	15 00
“ do. lachrymalis,	10 00
“ cupping,	1 50
“ vaccination,	1 50
“ cataract,	25 00
“ extirpating the eye,	30 00
“ do. tonsils,	10 00
“ polypus uteri,	50 00
“ do. nasi,	5 00

WEIGHT OF THE HUMAN BODY AT DIFFERENT AGES.—M. Quetelet of Belgium, shows—

1st. That the weight of the male infant at birth, is nearly 7 lbs. avoirdupois; while that of the female is not quite $6\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

2nd. That the maximum weight ($140\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.) of the male is attained at the age of 40; while that of the female (nearly 124 lbs.) is not attained till 50: from which ages they decline afterwards, the male to $127\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., the female of 109 lbs.

3rd. That the full grown adult is twenty times as heavy as the new born infant.

4th. That the rate of growth varies: in the first year, the child triples its weight; afterwards the growth proceeds in geometrical progression, so that if fifty infants in their first year weigh 1000 lbs., they will in the second weigh 1210 lbs., in the third 1361 lbs.; in the fourth 1464 lbs.; the rate remaining very constant up to the ages of 11—12 in females; and 12—13 in males, where it must be nearly doubled: afterwards it may be continued, and will be found very nearly correct up to the age of 18 or 19; when the growth proceeds very slowly up to 40. The weight of any number of children between 2 and 9 years of age being known, their weight, the amount of matter they can incorporate in twelve months or two years may be calculated.

THE OCEAN.—As far as it can be determined by any observation hitherto made, the greatest depth of the sea appears to be that ascertained by Capt. Phipps, in the Atlantic, where the lead descended to a depth of four thousand six hundred and eighty feet without encountering any impediment. In proportion to the descent from the surface of the ocean must be the diminution of light—a fact which has been corroborated by the experience of divers and fishers of pearls. According to Lambert’s showing, the light of the full moon is three hundred thousand times weaker than the light of the sun; and it is consequently asserted by Dr. Schmidt, of Gottengen, that at a depth of one hundred and seventeen feet below the surface of the sea the power of daylight has declined to that possessed by the rays of the full moon.

THOMSONIAN THEORY OF DISEASE.

The Thomsonian Theory of Disease, consists in this simple apothegm—this clear, concise, fundamental doctrine, viz. **DISEASE IS A UNIT.** This theory stands in the most bold and direct opposition to that which governs the practice of the mineral and poison faculty of the present day; for their theory is founded on their nosology, which consists of many hundred names, which stand for so many different and distinct diseases, all of which require as many different and distinct methods of treatment. Now we think it is quite evident, that both of these theories cannot be true: but let us examine one of them: and if we find that one to be based on reason, philosophy and science, we must believe it true, and of course its opposite false.

Here, two questions naturally arise: first what is **DISEASE?** second, what is the **CAUSE** of disease? The Thomsonian doctrine of disease is, that it consists in obstruction or functional derangement, by which the functional organs of the body are prevented from performing their natural operations, on which health and life necessarily depend. Obstruction may be general or local; that is, it may extend to all or nearly all the organs of the body, or it may be confined to one, two or three of them. It may also differ in degree, from very slight to very intense. Hence arise the various and endless forms and symptoms that disease assumes, the actual and sympathetic permutations and combinations of it in so many organs, being innumerable.

And here is the fatal rock on which nearly the whole medical faculty of ancient and modern times have made shipwreck of science, philosophy and truth. Instead of viewing disease as a unit, originating from one general proximate cause, but showing itself under innumerable forms, according to location and attendant circumstances, they have considered each **FORM** of disease to be a **DISTINCT** disease, requiring a particular kind of treatment, each differing from the other. Hence they have given names to all these imaginary diseases, and have divided them into classes, orders, genera, and species. 'This fatal error in the science of medicine has been the cause of the loss of more human life than all the wars, pestilence and famine, that have ever swept their blighting influence over the world. The maxim that "error in principle causes error in practice," never was more fully verified, than in the case of the nosological and mineralogical doctors of the present age.

We now pass to the second question—What is the **CAUSE** of disease, or what causes obstruction? The remote causes of disease may be as numerous as the sands of the sea: but the proximate cause is debility, or loss of vitality; and where there is a loss of vitality, there is a loss of **HEAT**. Dr. Samuel Thomson, in his "New Guide to Health," p. 12, says, "There is one general cause of hunger, and one general supply of food; one general cause of disease, and one general remedy." The general cause of disease is debility—loss of vital action—loss of **HEAT**. Vitality and heat are so intimately connected, (even admitting that they are not synonymous,) that where one is affected, the other must of necessity be affected also.

These two grand general fundamental principles

—viz: that disease is a unit, and that it is caused by the loss of heat and vitality, by being made the basis of the Thomsonian theory of disease, and the practice adapted thereto, has already begun and will finally revolutionize and disenthral our whole country from the tyrannical reign of legalized quackery.

That these two general principles are true, and therefore based upon science and philosophy, is not only proved by their reasonableness and simplicity, but also placed beyond a shadow of a doubt by the glorious success which has attended the Thomsonian practice everywhere, when in the hands of honest and intelligent men.

DOCTOR—PHYSICIAN.—A Doctor signifies a teacher, master, or rabbi, and was first applied to a man skilled in the law of Moses. Gamaliel was a doctor or teacher of the law. It was afterwards applied to men who were skilled in the science of *divinity*, or who was at least supposed to be so. These are styled **D.D.** After this, men supposed to be skilled in medicine, anatomy, &c. were styled *medical* doctors, **M.D.** It is now applied to apothecaries, and to all who can write a prescription in dog-latin, administer a cathartic, raise a blister, open a vein, order pills, make an issue, or spread a plaster. The word *Doctor*, in many instances spreads terror all around; causing a quick pulse, and much alarm among children, who are generally afraid of a man called the *Doctor*—with some reason, too.

The word *Physician* was in Egypt first applied to men who embalmed the dead. Next it was applied to those who gave medicine to the sick. Jeremiah in the bible, connects the balm of Gilead with the Physician. Job represents his friends as Physicians of no value. In the time of Christ and the apostles, there were two kinds of Physicians: the first made the sick worse, and took all their property for fees. It is said of a certain woman, "She had suffered many things from many physicians, had spent all her living, was nothing better but rather grew worse." Similar instances not unfrequently occur in these days. The other kind was such as benefited the sick.

LIGHT.—The Italian natural philosopher, Melloni, has recently invented a mode of depriving the rays of light of caloric, which seems to open the way to great discoveries respecting the rays of light, when thus separated. His method is very simple: he passes the sun's rays through a combination of bodies (water and a particular sort of glass coloured green with oxide of copper,) which bodies absorb all the caloric, and but little of the light. The light thus separated from its caloric is very yellow, with a green tinge; and when so concentrated by lenses, as to be as bright as the direct ray, the most delicate thermometer does not show the smallest degree of warmth. It has long been known that the prism, besides dividing the ray into its several pencils of colors, separated at one end of the spectrum a pencil of heat-making rays, and at the other a pencil of chemically-acting rays, both perceptible only by their effect; but this mode of severing the heat from the light offered little means of experimenting upon the unadulterated light, of which Melloni's discovery seems to give the philosopher as complete command as he had of the gasses, &c.

THE PROCESS OF ABSORPTION.—By the instrumentality of absorption, substances placed in contact with the skin are taken up and carried into the general circulation. In vaccinations a small quantity of matter is inserted under the cuticle on the surface of the true skin, and in a short time it is taken into the system by the process of absorption, or by the absorbant vessels. Mercurial preparations, sometimes rubbed upon the skin for the cure of liver complaint, &c. by the doctors, are absorbed, and affect the constitution precisely as when received into the stomach. Rhubarb and croton oil have been administered in the same way, and the poisonous principle of Spanish flies, when used to raise blisters, are often taken up by the cutaneous absorbents, producing great irritation of the kidneys and urinary organs, strangury, &c.

Some ascribe great, and others very little importance to cutaneous absorption. In some diseases, as in diabetes, in which the urinary discharge exceeds, by many ounces daily, the whole quantity of food and drink, without the body losing proportionally in water, we can account for the system being sustained only by supposing moisture to be absorbed from the air by the skin and lungs. The ancients believed that when food could not be retained in the stomach, a person might be nourished in a bath of strong soup or milk, though experiments more recently tried have shown that in such circumstances, absorption is too trifling for any such result. Weight, however, is occasionally gained by immersion in a warm bath, and when it is not, as much water is no doubt absorbed as would make up the loss sustained during immersion by perspiration.

When the perspiration is brought to the surface of the skin, and confined there either by injudicious clothing or by want of cleanliness, there is reason to suppose that its residual parts are again absorbed, and act on the system as a poison of greater or less power, producing even death. The fatal consequences that have repeatedly followed the use of a close water-proof dress by sportsmen and others, and the heat and uneasy restlessness which speedily ensue where proper ventilation is thus prevented, seem inexplicable only on some such principle. Again, flannel and warm woolen clothing have been ascertained to be extremely useful in preserving those who are exposed to epidemic influences.

In a dense or humid atmosphere, as in some parts of our Western States, people suffer materially from the want of information concerning the functions of the skin. It is indispensably necessary in such places for people to wear flannels, and to change them as often as twice a week at least. They should be worn in summer as well as winter, and in very warm weather, it is advisable to have two sets, and to change them every day,—not that they should be washed so often, but exposed only, that they may become thoroughly dry.

CURE FOR DYSENTERY.—Take two or three doses of Golden Seal mixed with a small quantity of Cayenne, through the day: dose, a teaspoonful of the pulverized powder in half a teacup of hot water sweetened. The same quantity of Composition powder, night and morning, and a strong tea made of the inner bark of the Quaking Asp Poplar, drank freely for 24 hours, if early applied, will cure any common case of dysentery.

DRESS OF CHILDREN.—Is there any reason, aside from fashion, why the dress of children should be so contrived as to leave naked their arms, shoulders, and upper part of the chest? if there is none in favor of this custom, there are reasons and serious ones, too, against it. That leaving these parts uncovered is uncomfortable to the individual, any one may be convinced by making the experiment upon himself. Let him leave his arms and the upper part of his chest exposed to the variations of temperature during the waking hours of any one day; and if on trial his feelings compel him to restore to those parts the usual covering, let him have compassion enough on the children under his care, to furnish them with a similar protection against the vicissitudes of the weather. But the objection on the score of comfort is not the greatest one. The mode of dressing is also detrimental to health. The state of the lungs and other internal organs, greatly depends upon the state of the skin; and is in no way more often disordered than by any cause which interrupts the due process of insensible perspiration in the latter. In tropical countries this fashion might be tolerated with impunity. But in ours, and especially in the New England States, where the temperature of the atmosphere sometimes varies twenty or thirty degree in the course of a few hours, it is entirely out of place. If such as have arrived to years of discretion will hazard their lives by conforming to the absurdities of fashion, the worst is their own; but to impose this kind of penance upon young children, merely to gratify the pride of their parents, is cruel—is inexcusable.

IMPROVEMENT IN MEDICAL SCIENCE.—There are many bigots in science, who, plodding on in the paths of those who have gone before them, believe that no improvement can be made in medical science, and consequently attempt none. But the vast improvements which are daily being made in every other science, gives the lie to such doctrine, and laughs it to scorn. As yet, medical science has, in comparison with others, made small progress. How many diseases are there yet, which mock the skill of the faculty, and defy their power! And shall no improvements be attempted—no discoveries received? Must the public fall victims to those monopolists in science, who are wilfully blind to those means of alleviating the sufferings of mankind, which do not emanate from the rules of the ancient schoolmen? Already a change is taking place, which, it is believed, will ultimately do away with the constitution destroying poisons, now so copiously administered by the faculty.—[Phila. Sat. Cour.]

STERNUTATORIES.—A young medical gentleman right from the schools, was called upon to extract a substance from the nose of a child but not succeeding, he applied to one of his older brethren for an instrument and sought his advice. His friend inquired if he had tried sternutatories (medicines that produce sneezing.) The young doctor said he had, *but they slipped off.*

AN EXTRACT.—"I could dwell long, very long, upon the injustice and suffering that woman has endured from and for man; but nothing has been more cruel and insulting than man's usurpation of the right to be present and attend upon her in the hours of her peculiar weaknesses and pains."

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, DECEMBER 15, 1837.

DR. A. CURTIS VERSUS THOMSONISM.

With an esteemed friend, whose letter appears on a succeeding page of this number of the Manual, we deeply regret the necessity which led the late Providence Convention to condemn the course pursued by Dr. A. Curtis, the editor of the late Thomsonian Recorder. But while we regret it, we are convinced of the uncontrollable nature of the circumstances which made so harsh a measure necessary,—unless Thomsonians were willing that a single individual should pursue his schemes of private aggrandizement and monopoly unchecked and unrebuked.

So far as we are personally concerned, we would much prefer to drop the pen where we now are, than to add another word to this matter: but we voluntarily assumed the duties which editorially we owe to the public, and we shall in no event shrink from the performance of them when we conceive the public good, as well as the purity of the system we advocate, calls on us to speak. Dr. Curtis, too, was one of the last persons with whom we should have desired to come in collision—not because we stand so much in awe of his superior powers of controversy, as his characteristic self-conceit will probably suggest to him—but because we are ever sorry to war against those with whom we have previously been on terms of amity, how much soever we may believe their conduct obnoxious to censure.

We believe, then, as what we have already said, must satisfy the reader, that Dr. Curtis deserved the rebuke of the Convention. Let us glance at the chief causes which produced it.

The grand *proximate* cause of the rupture with Dr. Curtis, was his strange article in regard to the discontinuance hereafter of the United States Thomsonian Convention. There were many other less conspicuous causes of complaint, however, which were much more than suspected by those who had critically watched his course. The stand taken by Dr. C. respecting the Convention, unwarrantable as it might have been considered, was a mere nothing compared with the ulterior objects supposed to be dependent upon it, and which he could effect only by first destroying the Convention. Such, for example, as the obtaining of a charter for his *Botanico-Medical* college, of which he of course was to be the president, and which, also of course, would ultimately become the *only genuine manufactory of Thomsonian practitioners*. This college or school, by the way, the fame of which is so frequently trumpeted by its manager, is not, as it ought to be, attached to an Infirmary, nor is it in any manner connected with *practical* Thomsonism, we are told. It is therefore

likely to be of no great benefit to any one except to Dr. C. himself.

The doctor's course in many other important particulars has been such as to compel an attentive observer to conclude, that he was more anxious to secure his own ascendancy, than to hasten that of pure Thomsonism. While with his native arrogance esteeming himself the grand leader of the Thomsonian forces, he has declared himself wiser than Thomson—denying the truth of his theory, though without substituting another, which he vainly pretended he was able to do. And while he has loudly vociferated against quackery in some shapes, he has appeared anxious to mystify the system of practice as much as was possible without engendering suspicion of his honesty in the minds of his readers. These to be sure, are but general, though important charges: they are such however, as we think, justified the resolutions of censure passed against him by the Convention; and such as we do not think the doctor can disprove. The simple act of his changing the title of the Recorder, plainly evinced, notwithstanding the hypocritical whine which accompanied it, that Dr. Curtis imagined himself stronger than the cause which had given him notoriety; and he has consequently drawn upon himself the censure of those, whom he supposed would not dare to "weigh him in the balance."

It is true, that when called to an account for his unjustifiable proposition in regard to the abolishing of the Convention,—which, probably, was put forth as a mere *feeler*,—he totally denied the correctness of the construction which had been put on his article by the *Botanic Sentinel* and the *Manual*; but he plainly enough showed that he *meant* what they understood him to say, by going to work to endeavor to *prove* that to be the best policy, which he denied having urged at all! If this peculiarly ambiguous manner of expression—this saying one thing and meaning another—be unavoidable in Dr. C., he is certainly to be pitied, for it by no means wears that appearance of frankness which characterizes the man of honor. If it be intentional, and adopted for the purpose of evading the responsibility to which he is justly held, as his true friends we would advise him to correct the habit—for although he may have acquired a full share of credit by its exercise, it will not pass currently forever.

It was quite a possible matter, truly, that the *Sentinel* and the *Manual* might have misunderstood the article referring to the Convention—as the Recorder affirmed was the case; but it does not lessen the mystery at all, that every body else *mis*-understood its spirit precisely in the same way. The *Southern Botanic Journal*, fell into the same error as did the *Sentinel* and the *Manual*; and in the 18th number, dated Sept. 30, 1837, its editor, Dr. Nardin, spoke of it in the following plain terms:

"We were very much surprised when we saw the 'remarks in the 'Recorder,' where we are told that the 'next session of the United States Thomsonian Convention, WAS TO BE THE LAST.' &c.

In precisely the same way was it universally regarded by the friends of the system in this quarter, as we could easily show by the communications received on the subject, but which we at the time considered it better to suppress—believing that Dr. Curtis would perceive the errors into which he had fallen, and retract. We will here give an extract from an

article on the subject, by a gentleman whose name we have, and who is in no way connected with Thomsonism, or with any thing pertaining to it, except so far as he is friendly to the cause of true medical science and an enemy to mysticism. The article was written immediately after the reception of that published in the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel, and it in every respect substantiates the correctness of our impressions, and justifies the censure of the Convention.

"The Thomsonian Recorder, as we are induced to believe from the course which it has pursued, would fain establish a Thomsonian Medical College, for the purpose of granting diplomas to botanic physicians. To this measure we have several objections, all of which we consider important.

"In the first place the United States Thomsonian Society was established many years ago by the author of the system himself, to hold an annual meeting, or convention, the delegates to which were to be approved Thomsonians, accredited by the respective Thomsonian societies throughout the United States. We see not why such a Thomsonian legislature is not quite as competent to impart mutual instruction, to prevent abuses, and to regulate a uniform system of practice, as a Thomsonian College would be. We see no good reason for taking what power and influence may be possessed by the whole body of Thomsonians to put into the hands of a few. With equal propriety, it seems to us, the people of the United States might abolish the senate and house of representatives and invest the Executive and his cabinet with their functions and powers. In either case the persons entrusted with such unreasonable and irresponsible authority might be good and worthy citizens or practitioners; but they would still be but men, subject to all the frailties and imperfections of human nature. It cannot be but that they would sometimes abuse their power, and this very liability to abuse is the most powerful argument that can be urged against trusting them so far. The history of all nations is a lesson, not to be misunderstood, that, to govern well, the governing power must acknowledge and feel a responsibility to the parties governed. If any abuse should creep into the Thomsonian practice, it must be discovered and will be rectified by the convention. Should a college be constituted the regulator of the system, and itself fall into error, where would be the remedy? We can see no possible good to be gained by establishing a college, unless the creation of an aristocracy among Thomsonians similar to the Massachusetts Medical Society and other like Vehmique tribunals among those who call themselves the regular faculty be so considered. How odious these combinations have become by their assumptions of arbitrary power need not be told. The Recorder may prefer an oligarchy to a republican form of government; but for our own part, we should like a despotism better than the rule of a privileged few. Every schoolboy knows that the government of Venice was ten times more oppressive than any despotism that ever existed.

☞ "The next Convention, says the Recorder, will probably be the last ever convened; because of the expense of attending it; an argument so absurd on its very face, that we shall not condescend to the task of refuting it. There is no reason to suppose that the idea of abolishing the convention ever entered the brain of any person but the editor of the Recorder,

for we hear of it from no other source. What his motive can be, or what object he expects to attain, by the consummation of his wishes, we are unable even to guess. Common charity commands us to believe that he means well; but whether any good can result from dividing our ranks, relinquishing the care of our own interests, and giving the enemies of Thomsonism a weak point of attack by erecting an odious monopoly, is quite another affair. *Cui bono?* Where is the good of abolishing our convention? If our delegates find attendance on it too expensive, there is no force put upon them. Are we to have no means of regulating our common affairs? Shall we offer impostors and enemies an undisputed field to dishonor our names, misrepresent our doctrines, and give mankind plausible reason to abhor us? Our Convention is our only efficient bond of union, and, lo! here is a gentleman, who calls himself our friend, would cut it asunder.

"Mr. Recorder takes the unjustifiable liberty to call all "friends of humanity," that is to say, all mankind, to assist at our convention. Persons attached to all systems of medicine are invited to participate in our deliberations! We suppose the regular faculty must thrust their oars into our rowlocks among the rest, no matter which way they pull. We are to be confounded with Brandreth, Graham, and others, whose systems, if any they have, are as different from ours as darkness is from light. We have no objections to bear the burthen of our own sins; but we enter our decided protest against carrying an ounce of theirs. We have no inclination to drag them up hill at our skirts, or to fall into ditches for the sake of their company. We are for standing or falling by our own merits. This is the first time we have heard a Thomsonian cry for assistance to rule his own household; and we are astonished at the stupendous magnitude of the absurdity. What! ask those whose interest and inclination it is to drive us out of existence to legislate for us! The Church of England asks no legislation at the hands of the dissenters—the Grand Turk entrusts not the keeping of his conscience to the Pope—the shepherd never asks wolves to guard his flocks. Thomsonians, however, are judged capable of such suicidal folly by the Recorder."

We have thus endeavored to show that the conduct of Dr. Curtis was viewed in the same light by every one; that it was considered alike hostile to the purity and progress of Thomsonism, and dictated by motives of selfishness on his part; and, being so, that the New England Convention were not only justified, but were in duty bound, to censure him.

And, although we regret as much as any person can, the necessity which compels us in this manner to speak of one who has, perhaps, done the cause some service, yet we believe that the public will not fail to appreciate in a proper way the spirit by which we are dictated—a determination to sacrifice all minor feelings to the support of Thomsonism as it ought to be supported, in its *purity and simplicity*.

LEARNED IGNORANCE.—Dr. Jackson says of the Phenomena of Fever—"This problem has continued unsolved to the present period; has been the most disquieting question of our SCIENCE, and has heretofore defied the attempts, even of the most gifted, to give it permanent form, or to settle it on any established base!"

THE NEW YORK CASE.

From letters received, we learn with great pleasure, that very liberal contributions have been made in the city of Philadelphia, and in West Chester, (Pa.) for the purpose of sustaining Dr. Frost against the attack which the *regulars* have made upon him, and through him upon the Thomsonian system. The trial was to be had on the 12th inst. The celebrated David Paul Brown, of Philadelphia, has been employed as associate counsel, by the Thomsonians of that city, at a fee of \$400.00; and a committee also appointed to attend the trial. This is truly the right spirit, and we hope to be able to give the results of a similar one in Boston, in our next number. We look at this matter as one of immense importance. It is a death-struggle of the Faculty against Thomsonism, and we have the fullest assurance that they will rally their whole strength, at this juncture, to destroy it if they possibly can. The real question at issue is not whether Frost killed his patient French—but it is, whether any man shall administer Thomsonian, or any other medicine, not sanctioned by the Faculty; a question of *right* against *monopoly*. The acquittal of Dr. Frost ought by no means to be the ending of this transaction; Cheeseman ought to be tried by the *saine* touchstone; or, if that be impossible, Thomsonians should at least bring up such a mass of testimony, as will awaken every man to the true merits of the great principles involved. There never was a better opportunity for them to do this, nor one where it was so important that they should do it. If the *regulars* are permitted with impunity to carry on the game of which the arrest of Frost is but a prelude, no practitioner, no Thomsonian whatever, can administer to his patient or his neighbor a dose of raspberry leaf tea, except at the risk of an indictment for murder! For the sake of justice, of humanity, of our own honor, let the Thomsonians of Boston and elsewhere, like our philanthropic brethren of Pennsylvania, come then “*to the rescue*.”

Any contributions, be they ever so small, which our friends may desire to make towards defraying the expenses which will be incurred by individuals in this trial, may be forwarded to Mr. GEO. A. CHAPMAN, (No. 35 Washington-street, Boston,) one of the Corresponding Secretaries of the N. E. Branch of the U. S. Thomsonian F. B. Society; the receipt of which will be acknowledged in the Manual; through which channel will also be made known, the manner in which the sum total received may be applied.

HINTS TO EPICURES.—The teeth of Indians seldom decay, excepting in some slight degree by age—and the cause may be referred to the simple nature of their food—taking nothing which can injure their teeth—and none of what are called “luxuries” of life. For the same reason, the hair of the Indian, or of the white man of the lower classes, seldom comes off; and we see many aged men with heads of thick and handsome hair.—“High living” has a great influence in decaying the human system.—[Mercantile Journal.]

All this may be true enough, but the Journal should take care not to give the devil more than his due. The poisonous drugs of the faculty have destroyed many more teeth, shattered many more constitutions, and filled many more premature graves, than luxurious living has done.

THE LATE PROVIDENCE CONVENTION.—We believe that the results of the late convention of Thomsonians at Providence, will be most important to the progress of our cause,—tending in a very great degree to hasten the inevitable overthrow of the established errors in existing medical practice. Those jealousies which peculiar circumstances had tended to foster against Doctor Thomson personally, in the breasts of a few who were friendly to the system, were found by them to be predicated in error, and a voluntary confession was made by some, that they had been entirely mistaken in the opinion they had previously formed of the man. For our own part, we think that no one who really knows the Doctor, and his thoughts and feelings, can believe him to be that “monopolizing and tyrannical” person, which some of those who have infringed upon his rights have affirmed him to be. And, moreover, we think we have the fullest assurance that so far from desiring to monopolize the profits of his system to himself exclusively, the great end and aim of his remaining days is the devising of ways and means by which the system may be disseminated among, and kept in the hands of the people. Possessed of such a desire as this, he of course would be naturally opposed, as in truth he is, to a monopoly of the benefits of the system by any other man or set of men. It has been by opposing the designs of the mercenary individuals who would do this, that the doctor has rendered himself obnoxious to their slanderous imputations. For these reasons, it is not wonderful that many who were friendly to the system should have been misled as to the real intentions of its venerable founder. We cannot doubt however, that the results of the Convention, and the accommodating spirit manifested by the doctor on points concerning his rights and interest, will open the eyes of the public to the true state of things, and, by confirming its friends in the benevolent intentions of the originator of the Botanic system, secure in his support their continued co-operation.

THOMSONIAN BOTANY AND MATERIA MEDICA.—This is the title of a work from the pen of our friend Mr. Mattson, which is about to be issued from the office of the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel. It will contain a handsome engraving of Dr. Samuel Thomson, and twenty-five illustrations of plants. Some of these we have had the pleasure of examining. They are accurately figured, and colored in very handsome style. The book will be ornamental as well as very useful. We shall speak of it more at length hereafter. It will be sent through the post office, in numbers, from the office of the Botanic Sentinel, at \$2 for the work.

ADULTERATED MEDICINE.—The Southern Botanic Journal cautions its readers against adulterated lobelia seeds, which, it states, are sold in that quarter. There are many kinds of seeds which can be mixed with those of lobelia, as the Journal says, and which are not easily detected. In some instances the lobelia has been *drugged* by the “doctors,” and it behoves the people to be at all times careful.

M. Ds.—A wag said that the appearance of these formidable letters on the door of a tooth drawer signified *Miserable Dentist*.

BOTANICO-MEDICAL PRACTITIONERS.—"Send us your students and we will prepare them for their work," says Dr. Curtis, the "principal of the botanico-medical school," &c. &c. &c. to a correspondent.—We have recently heard of a practical illustration of the extraordinary benefits resulting from this *preparation* by Doctor Curtis, which we think of too much importance, if true, to be concealed from the public. We shall accordingly state it, as nearly as we can in the words in which we heard it. An individual, (name not recollected,) a resident of the vicinity of Boston, was taken sick, and was attended by a "graduate" of the Botanico-Medical school, as aforesaid. The "doctor," as we shall call the graduate, commenced his clinical operations by administering a quantity of medicines—such as *pills*, &c.—much resembling the doses and drugs of the diplommatized, dog-latinized and dogmatized doctors. The patient, being somewhat of a *Thomsonian*, was desirous of *sweating* a little; this, however, the Dr. told him, was in his case decidedly impolitic and inadmissible, and might prove exceedingly dangerous if not positively *fatal*! Doctor Curtis's doctor continued his botanico-medical treatment for several days, the whole of which time, astonishing as it may appear to the *Thomsonian*, was passed by the patient *without any alvine evacuation whatever!!* And no measures being taken to remedy so dangerous a condition, the patient was very soon in so hopeless a state, as nearly to despair of recovery, and to make *his last will and testament*. As the lamp of life was faintly flickering, however, the unfortunate patient was induced to make one more effort for the preservation of life, and he consequently procured the services of a *Thomsonian* practitioner, by whose strenuous exertions, though with the greatest difficulty, he was at length rescued from the jaws of death. If this is a fair example of the manner in which the students of Doctor Curtis are "*prepared for their work*," it is not wonderful that he covets an act of incorporation in order to burnish their blunders.

Perhaps, however, we may be mistaken as to the nature of this case. It might have been one of those "*thin skinned*" patients, whom Doctor Curtis once endeavored to make Dr. Thomson think it would be dangerous to steam! And Dr. Curtis may still think it necessary to inculcate a different mode of treating the "*thin skinned*" kind, notwithstanding the old Dr. was "too stubborn" to admit the correctness of Dr. C.'s logic in relation to the matter! On this supposition, however, we see no satisfaction for the abused patient; though it furnishes the excuse to Dr. Botanico-Medico, that he acted as he was taught to do.

POLICE.—An eminent apothecary in the New Road attended at Marylebone office, to prosecute his errand boy, who, when sent out with medicine, being versed in Shakspeare, used to 'throw physic to the dogs,' and sell the empty bottles: the boy had spent the money in going to see the Bottle Imp, (a play.) The doctor said his suspicions were first excited by finding his patients suddenly getting well. His worship at first threatened the culprit with the pillory and the black-hole; but afterwards changed the sentence into pills and a black draught, as more severe, and desired his master to take him home and dose him.—[London Register.]

Thus is the "sublime science" ridiculed, *sub rosa*.

COMPARATIVE EFFECTS OF OPIUM AND WINE.—M. Nysten, the physiologist, published, in 1808, the results of many experiments which he had made with opium, in order to ascertain with certainty its peculiar properties. In relation to the analogy which had been supposed to exist between the effects of opium and those of wine, he concluded, that the supposition of such analogy was incorrect. "Opium, whether in a small or great dose, directs its action to the *vital* property or principle; and it is even in this manner that it becomes a powerful sedative. Wine, on the contrary, reanimates the vital property or principle; and when it even produces a debilitating effect, it is because those properties have been elevated to too high a degree of energy, by an unhealthy stimulant, that they fall into a state of collapse." Lest the lovers of "strong drink" should take courage from this fact to transgress against the precepts of temperance, they should remember the observation of that "terrible tractor," Dr. Caustic, that—

— nine tenths of our doctors' fees
From Bacchanalian devotees
And vot'ries of Sir Richard Rum
Have ever, and will ever come.

OPIUM IN RHEUMATISM.—There is another account in the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, (says the R. I. Botanic Advertiser,) relating to the use of opium in rheumatism. The writer says he has used it for *twenty years*, and never knew it to perform a cure in a single instance! A pretty honest confession—a persevering practitioner,—and what is more, he says in a postscript, 'I have several other cases, which I have put upon a course of opium, in order to *test it thoroughly*.'

What a double-distilled specimen of the supreme folly of scientific ignorance! After a trial of twenty years, too, unsuccessfully, to think of still persevering in the use of his deadly drug. The doctor's "concentrativeness" must certainly be developed to a monstrous degree. Twenty years! What would be said by those scientific ignoramuses and their deluded and unfortunate patients at so extended a trial of the horrid *screw-awgur and hot-crop*? To think too, of "*thoroughly testing it*," by another twenty years' trial! What infatuation! No where but in the ranks of the *faculty* can be found such instances of inexpressible folly and delusion. O, that they would become apprentices to some teacher of common sense! Masters they can never be.

THE BENNINGTON COUNTY (Vt.) WHIG, is another of those newspapers having the independence and daring to admit articles in reply to the falsehoods of the faculty relative to Thomsonism; and we are glad to notice that Dr. Edson, of Factory Point, avails himself of this liberality of the Whig, in exposing, in its true light, the late transaction at Dr. Frosts's Infirmary, in New York. Thomsonians ought not to permit this matter to pass over without such an expression of their feelings as will be heard by the public at large. If ever a victim was sacrificed at the shrine of medical superstition and villainy, Tiberius G. French was a victim to that spirit. We have not the shadow of a doubt that he was *killed* by the treatment of Doctor Cheeseman, and believing thus, we consider it the duty of Thomsonians, not only to defend themselves in every manner possible, but also to carry the war into the enemy's country.

PRACTICE OF THE INDIANS AND THE "REGULARS" COMPARED.—We continue our extracts from the book of Mr. CHARLES WHITLAW. The annexed, in relation to the difference between the results of the practice of the native Indians and that of the learned Faculty, we copy from that portion of the book giving an account of the writer's travels in the United States, prior to the year 1819.

"In visiting the hospitals at New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and others cities in the United States, (says Mr. W.) I soon became acquainted with the practice of the medical men in the first rank in the profession, and found them generally followers of Cullen's or Brown's theory and practice of physic. The more I studied the views of Cullen and Brown, as well as their followers, and more particularly observed the generally *unfortunate results of such practice*, I was induced to compare it with the native Indian practice, especially the Creek and Cherokee tribes, in curing the bite of *venomous reptiles* and hydrophobia, as well as their extraordinary success in the treatment of *pleurisy*, and every other description of *acute inflammation*, without *bleeding*. The patients were convalescent in a few hours, and seldom exceeded two days, so that I scarcely met with a case of chronic inflammation, (except at a very advanced period of life,) the disease being subdued before it had assumed that character. Scrofula, liver complaints, consumption, and cutaneous diseases, were unknown among them. When I informed the medical men of the *superiority* of the *Indian practice*, they ascribed it to their simple mode of living; but I found the Indians equally successful with the *white* population! The cures they made of scrofula and leprosy, among the white population, particularly attracted my attention, so that I began to suspect the theory and practice of Cullen and of Brown to be highly injurious to the diseased portion of the community, and would, sooner or later, eat like a gangrene into the vitals of men, and paralyze the energies of the State, if not prevented. I stated my views on that subject to Dr. Tillary of New York, who was President of the Medical Society in that city; he investigated my views on that subject, and acknowledged the *superiority* of the *Indian treatment*, and lamented that he, as well as his medical brethren, could not discover the remedies the Indians made use of. He also confessed, although he had been practising the Cullenian theory for *fifty years*, he now began to *suspect* there was something fallacious in his views."

So much for the Indians. It is a pity for the sake of his own credit, that Mr. Whitlaw did not do equal justice to the *Thomsonians*. We continue our quotations from a succeeding page.

CONSTITUTIONAL EFFECT OF POISONOUS DRUGS.—"Indigestion, cancer, scrofula and mercurial diseases, with their dreadful train of attendants, are become quite common. Can we be astonished at all this, when the sophistry advanced by Dr. Cullen has been received and practised for half a century?—the period when Britain's physical woes began. Some individuals may say that such a remark is chimerical. I will refer them to the immense number of diseased children that at their birth, are now the subjects of medical practice, compared with any former age. Let them contemplate the weak, imbecile, nervous race of beings that now exists, and they will readily perceive the justness of these remarks. These are incontrovertible facts; and the poisonous drugs of

the faculty are the chief cause of such lamentable disease and degeneration."

OPINION OF LIZARS, THE ANATOMIST, ON MEDICAL TREATMENT.—"I cannot omit giving the opinion of Mr. John Lizars of Edinburgh, (Scotland,) author of the best set of anatomical plates ever published. His extensive experience, and the observations he made on the diseased organs of the bodies he dissected, led him to inquire into the causes that produced dissolution, and to direct his attention to the medical treatment which gave rise to the phenomena presented to his view. In the preface to the fourth part of his work he observes, '*If there be a fault in general education, it is the sending out from our universities mere speculative men.*' He also says that '*the system of medicine and surgery which is established in any country has a greater influence over the lives of its inhabitants, than the epidemic diseases produced by its climate, or the decisions of its government concerning peace and war. The devastations of the yellow fever, will bear no comparison with the ravages committed by the BRUNONIAN system; and the slaughter of the battle-field of Waterloo counts not of victims, a tithe of the number of which the CULLENIAN doctrine of debility can justly boast.*'"

Here endeth this lesson!

PROFESSOR CALDWELL.—The extracts from the essay of this distinguished gentleman with which we have commenced this, and shall continue in two future numbers, contain many important facts and observations which will be interesting to the medical revolutionist. Though some parts of the extracts may be considered rather dry, other parts are very interesting, and it is all worthy of perusal. He slashes the learned errors of the profession without mercy—regular though he be himself. These extracts will be the more interesting, as the Professor has been recently punished for his *heresies*, and a decree of expulsion has been passed against him by the authorities of the University to which he has been so long attached, charging him with "bringing discredit and ruin upon the medical department of the University, and causing to be erected at Louisville a rival Institution." The essay from which we have given extracts, was published during 1829, we believe.

THE SPEECH OF MR. HAYWARD, in the legislature of Vermont, we copy from the Botanic Advocate. It entitles him to the thanks of every friend to true medical science, and we doubt not that the weight of his testimony will hasten the downfall of medical monopoly and mysticism.

THE MECHANIC AND FARMER of Bangor, we are pleased to notice, lets fly an occasional shot at the old medical *craft*—which, as they invariably take effect between wind and water, must excite no small commotion among her crew. Its editor has earned the thanks of every honest man.

GOUT.—A gentleman groaning under the pangs of this disorder was asked by a sympathising friend, "Have you ever tried the Eau medicinal?" "I have tried every kind of oh!" he exclaimed, with the true accent of pain, "but they don't relieve me." Try the "steam" sir, and we'll warrant a cure, without even a fee.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MORE DEATHS BY CALOMEL AND QUACKERY.

New Haven, Ct., December 7, 1837.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANUAL:

The following narrative was written and handed me by an eminent Clergyman of this city.

Yours, &c.

B. W. SPERRY.

DR. SPERRY—Dear Sir: On or about the 12th of October last, Mr. Eber Wheaton, of the city of New York, was taken ill, and, as was his usual custom when attacked with a bilious affection to which he was subject, he took a dose of Calomel, and subsequently a dose of salts. He was necessarily called away from home while under the influence of these medicines, and the next day was more unwell than before. His family physician was sent for, and commenced treating him as he alleged, "for a course of fever." The wife of Mr. Wheaton informed us that the fever commenced with the prescriptions of the physician, and increased with unabated rage and alarming symptoms for nearly two weeks, the pulse varying from 100 up to 136 per minute. On the 13th November Mr. W. died. We have not been informed of all the symptoms of his disease in its various stages. He is said to have died of bilious remittent fever, and we will not pretend to say but that as good medical aid as the city affords was administered. His family physician, who is called a skilful man, obtained the assistance of another professional gentleman, who approved of the course that had been pursued in the case. We attended the funeral of the deceased, and were told the following facts from his friends. His brother expressed to me his full conviction that the patient had died a victim to calomel. He said it had been given every day, as long as he could swallow it. The nephew of the deceased affirmed that his uncle had taken at a moderate calculation, a hundred grains of calomel; and nothing had been given to void it from the system. A relative of Mr. W. who holds an office in a respectable church in the city, declared it as his opinion, that he would have recovered if less calomel had been given, and that he prevailed on the doctor, after much solicitation, to withhold potions of morphine, which he was about to give his patient. These individuals are well known to the writer as persons of general good character. They were with the deceased during a great portion of the time of his last illness, and granting that their prejudices may be very strong against the use of calomel, and granting also that they may have been ignorant as to one of the medicines which were given, it cannot be disputed that calomel was relied on as the principal thing to restore the man to health. These persons may be mistaken as to the nature and effects both of the disease and the antidote, but we apprehend that if the case had been trusted to the hands of a "Thomsonian doctor," it would have been said that he died by "steam," or some "poisonous plant." I do not state the above facts and observations from any feelings of prejudice against the regular practice, or from any partial prepossessions in favor of "the Botanic practice." But as they *are* facts, and names can be given if required, you may make such use of them, Dr. Sperry,

as you may think proper. Justice to both parties, (the medical and the botanic,) require us to apprise the public of such instances as the above. The three individuals alluded to, who expressed their opinion that the patient died by too free a use of Calomel, had no personal feelings of hostility against the attending physician, so far as we know.

Mr. Editor—The above facts coming from such an indisputable source, are worthy a place in all the Thomsonian journals in the Union; and I wish other papers friendly to the advancement of the truth as it is in Thomson, to give them publicity. Behold the contrast!! Dr. Frost, a worthy Thomsonian, persecuted and prosecuted for the loss of a patient who died under "*scientific*" treatment, and the dealers in calomel by the pound may kill by scores—and shall the public mind be hushed to silence? No! I call upon all Thomsonians to collect such facts—bring them before the people—call their attention to these startling evidences of malpractice, and point them to the only correct principles of medical science, and in due time they will hear as "for their lives."

ANOTHER FACT.—One M.D. of this city, a great stickler for calomel, has had the effects of his own "*science*" clearly developed in his own family by the loss of three of his own children, and another, I am informed, is not expected to survive! He is not a Thomsonian most surely, "for by their works shall ye know them."

Enough for the present. I have some more "facts" in pickle for the scientific gentry, and in due time you shall hear again from

Yours, &c. BENNETT W. SPERRY.

P. S.—I enclose three dollars EXTRA, having paid for the 3rd and 4th vols. of the Thomsonian Manual, and wish you to forward me as many copies of the 3rd vol. as you please for the money, for gratuitous distribution, and if the Manual sustains its present character, I will at the commencement of the 4th, hold talk with you about giving double the above sum, for the perusal of the wavering and doubtful, and to sustain the Manual in its warfare against error and delusion. How many practitioners will do likewise? I shall beside the above small effort, endeavor to procure some subscribers for the Manual. I will not promise how many until I make a trial.

Again yours, &c.

B. W. S.

Dr. Sperry deserves thanks for these good acts and intentions, and so far as we are concerned he has them. If every practitioner would do likewise the faculty would soon be stripped of their borrowed plumage, and reduced to their proper level. They have too long been the accusers, when they ought to have been suppliants; and it is high time their arrogance and audacity were whipt into submission by Thomsonians. This end can be easily attained by the latter, if they will make a trifling exertion to disseminate among the people a correct understanding of our principles and practice; and the proofs and confessions of the bewildered incapacity of the poison dealers. There are many doubters of the old school system, who only need a correct knowledge of our theory, to ripen their doubts of the former into active opposition.—[Ed.]

Newport, R. I., November 27, 1837.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANUAL:

Dr. C. W. Martin has lectured in this town, Middletown and Portsmouth, on Thomsonism and the mineral practice. The audiences were numerous, respectable and listened with almost breathless attention. Almost every one appears highly pleased with the lectures, and if I mistake not, they will produce thirty, sixty, and even a hundred fold.

Dr. Martin is an able and agreeable lecturer, but there is room for improvement. He should add to his resources in very way that would enhance his qualifications as a lecturer in defence of the Thomsonian system. A little industry on his part would make him worthy of the support of the Thomsonians of New England in keeping him employed wholly as a lecturer. Much is done to advance Thomsonism by able lectures, and Dr. Martin has given it an impetus, in this town and vicinity, that must be ominous to the mineralizers and their dupes. The wavering have been convinced, and the sternest of opponents seem shorn of their strength. In two years from this time the poisonous and depleting practice in this place, will have been prostrated forever.

I very much regret that it was not convenient for me to give my attendance to the convention recently held in Providence, but a dear sister, who had suffered ten years from the mercurial and destructive practice of the M.D.'s, lay so closely at Death's door, that I could not leave her to attend the Convention. But thanks to the immortal founder of the Thomsonian system, this sister is now recovering—though her late attack has been such as is represented in the books of the faculty as proving always fatal. Thomsonian treatment has saved her.

My chief reason for wishing to be at the Convention was to see Samuel Thomson himself. The beholding and conversing with him would have been more gratifying to me than to have beheld and conversed with any other man in the country. It was the reading of his narrative that roused me thoroughly into action in behalf of this system, though I had for several years combatted with the *regulars* in its defence. After having read the narrative I purchased the Right, and immediately united myself with Dr. Gardner, and have ever since assisted him in the duties of an Infirmary and other practice.

There was one part of the proceedings at the Convention which has caused me unpleasant feeling. I allude to the difficulty with Dr. Curtis. After all the difficulties, hereabouts, had been amicably settled, to have a fresh one with so able a defender of Thomsonism as Dr. C. has been, could not but be painful to me. But lest I should mistake the merits or demerits of the case, I will say no more. (1)

Your friend, CHARLES B. PECKHAM.

(1) The article in reference to this difficulty, headed "Dr. A. Curtis, &c." was penned in consequence of this. See a preceding page.—[Ed.]

Boston, December 8, 1837.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANUAL:

Sir: I desire through the Manual to state to the public, that, having inexpressibly suffered for some six or seven years, under the influence of dire and chronic diseases, and others of comparatively recent date, such as dyspepsia, dulness, drowsiness, dizziness, loss of appetite, flatulency, palpitation of the heart, tightness of the chest, difficulty of

breathing, extreme weakness of the lungs, cough, raising blood, nervous irritability, pain in the head, breast, sides, particularly the left, and limbs, &c. &c.; and being extremely emaciated, debilitated, and unfit for any business, and having approximated nearly to what is termed by the medical faculty a seated consumption, and being in a decline, after much deliberation, I resolved with the advice of friends, on trying the Thomsonian medicine, and accordingly put myself under the care of Dr. Wm. Clark. And, by carefully and closely pursuing his prescriptions, my health has wonderfully improved, and I am still convalescent.

I would also inform the friends of health, that Dr. Clark has a spacious and commodious infirmary eligibly situated in Pleasant-street, a healthy part of the city, is prepared to accommodate a great number of patients at a time, and at the shortest notice. Having practised for several years as a botanic physician, under the patronage of Doctor Samuel Thomson, the founder of the botanic system of practice, he has become thoroughly acquainted with the system, and every species of disease. And by close and unwearied attention to those placed under his care, his practice has been attended with the greatest success. Having resided at his infirmary several weeks, and witnessed some of the remarkable and extraordinary cures which he has effected in a short time, I would recommend him, and the Thomsonian system of medical practice, to the patronage of an enlightened public. SAMUEL P. PAINE.

CORK. — Many persons see corks used daily, without knowing whence come these exceedingly useful materials. Corks are cut from large slabs of bark of the cork tree, a species of the oak which grows wild in the countries in the south of Europe. The tree is generally divested of its bark at about fifteen years old, but before stripping it off the tree is not cut down, as in the case of the oak. It is taken while the tree is growing; and the operation may be repeated every eighth or ninth year,—the quality of the cork continuing each time to improve as the age of the tree increases. When the bark is taken off, it is singed in the flame of a strong fire; and, after being soaked for a considerable time in water, it is placed under heavy weights in order to render it straight. Its extreme lightness, the ease with which it may be compressed, and its elasticity, are properties so peculiar to this substance, that no efficient substitute for it has yet been discovered. The valuable properties of cork were known to the Greeks and Romans, who employed it for all the purposes for which it is used at present, with the exception of stopples for bottles, the ancients mostly employing cement in closing the mouths of bottles or vessels. The Egyptians are said to have made coffins of cork, which being spread on the inside with a resinous substance, preserved dead bodies from decay. In modern times, cork was not generally used for stopples to bottles till about the close of the 17th century, wax being till then chiefly in use for that purpose. The cork imported into Great Britain is brought principally from Italy, Spain and Portugal. The quantity annually consumed is upwards of 5000 tons.—[English paper.]

ELECTRICITY.—It is very probable that electricity has its appointed and important purposes in the economy of the atmosphere. And this being so, we may see a use of the thunder storm and the stroke of the lightning. These violent events are, with regard to the electricity of the atmosphere, what winds are with regard to heat and moisture. They restore the equilibrium where it has been dissolved, and carry the fluid from places where it is superfluous, to others where it is deficient. We are so constituted, however, that these crises impress almost every one with a feeling of awe. The deep lowering gloom of the thunder cloud, the overwhelming burst of the explosion, the flash from which the steadiest eye shrinks, and the irresistible arrow of the lightning which no earthly substance can withstand, speak of something fearful, even independently of the personal danger which they may whisper. They convey, far more than any other appearance does, the idea of a superior and mighty power, manifesting displeasure and threatening punishment. Yet we find that this is not the language which they speak to the physical inquirer. He sees these formidable symptoms only as the means or the consequences of good.

A BUNCH OF KITTENS.—We were shown yesterday a collection of six kittens united *a la Siamese*, by the umbilical cord. When first seen they were tugging away at the breast, but their connection seemed so unnatural that they were forthwith drowned. It is to be regretted that they were not kept alive, for the purpose of testing the Siamese union on an extended scale. The feline race is famous for monstrosities, but we do not remember a case of as extraordinary a character as the one just described. The whole posse is now preserved in spirits.—[Norfolk Beacon.]

VENTRILLOQUISM consists in the motion of the uvula (palate), epiglottis, and fauces, by which the sounds are modulated, without using the lips, teeth or palate. The mouth being nearly shut, and the cavity of the nose closed, the sound is returned as if made by some one at a distance.—There is no other mystery about it, and any person whose organs of speech are perfectly formed, and who will take the trouble to practice, may become a ventriloquist.

RICE is the most wholesome of all farinaceous substances, being the sole food of millions in Asia, where protracted lives are justly ascribed to the constant use of this simple food. There is no gluten in rice, which makes it palatable with no condiment but common salt, and fit to eat without the process of fermentation.

A LEARNED ERROR.—Lord Bacon singularly enough supposed that the heat of the blood exhausted the strength of the body; and suggested that if the blood were cooled by nitre, life might be prolonged to an indefinite period.

☞ **Dr. LARRABEE's** card in our next.

List of Agents will also appear in our next number—being necessarily postponed.

LINES

BY DERMODY—AN IRISH POET.

Sweet is the woodbine's fragrant twine,
Sweet the ripe burden of the vine;
The pea-bloom sweet, that scents the air;—
The rose-bud sweet beyond compare;
The perfume sweet of yonder grove;—
Sweeter the lip of her I love!

Soft the rich meadow's velvet green,
Where cowslip turfs are early seen;
Soft the young cygnet's snowy breast,
Or down that lines the linnet's nest;
Soft the smooth plumage of the dove;
Softer the breast of her I love!

Bright is the star that opes the day;
Bright the mid-moon's refulgent ray;
Bright on yon hill the sunny beam;
Bright the blue mirror of the stream;
Bright the gay-twinkling fires above;
Brighter the eyes of her I love!

To match one grace, with idle pain
Through nature's stores I search in vain,
All that is bright, and soft, and sweet,
Does in her form concentred meet;
Then, muse! how weak thy power must prove
To paint the charms of her I love!

COMFORTABLE SCRAPS FOR MEN OF GENIUS.—Homer was a beggar; Plautus was a miller; Terence was a slave; Bæthius died in prison; Begerce starved; Tasso had not money enough to purchase candles to write by; Cervantes died of hunger; Benteroglio was refused admittance into a hospital which he had founded; Agrippa died in a workhouse; Vaugelas left his body to the surgeons to pay his debts; Camoens ended his days, in an alms-house; Bacon lived in distress; Raleigh and Moore ended their days upon a scaffold; Lesage never knew comfort in pecuniary matters; Spencer died in want; Collins went mad from the world's neglect; Milton sold his *Paradise Lost* for £15 in three instalments and died in obscurity; Dryden died in distress; Otway died prematurely and in want; Lee died in the streets; Steele was dogged by the bailiffs; Goldsmith sold, through Johnson, the Vicar of Wakefield for a mere trifle, to release him from prison; Fielding lies without a stone to mark his grave; Savage died at Newgate, at Bristol, where he was imprisoned for £3; Butler lived neglected and died poor; and the immortal Chatterton; in consequence of want, put an end to his existence in his 68th year.—[English paper.]

An excellent story is told of Dr. Physic of Philadelphia. A poor woman came to him one day in a great deal of trouble, and complained that her son had swallowed a penny. 'Pray madam,' said the Doctor, 'was it a counterfeit?' 'No.' 'Then it will pass of course,' rejoined the facetious physician.

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DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.

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THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME III.]

BOSTON, JANUARY 1, 1838.

[NUMBER 5.]

EXTRACTS FROM AN ESSAY ENTITLED THOUGHTS ON THE CHANGES AND THEIR CAUSES, WHICH ARE PERPETUALLY OC- CURRING IN MATERIAL CREATION.

BY CHARLES CALDWELL,

Professor of the Institutes of Medicine, and Clinical Prac-
tice, in Transylvania University.

[Continued from page 52.]

It would be easy to show, did time permit me to dwell on the subject, that far from co-operating in the same scheme, and to the same purpose, chemistry and vitality are, as already intimated, the very opposites of each other; that they are, in the wise and beautiful economy of creation, antagonizing agents, related to each other as attraction and repulsion, or centripetal and centrifugal forces.

The province of vitality is to build up the world of living matter, and bestow on it the countless forms, beauties and excellences which it so abundantly exhibits. Chemistry, on the contrary, pulls down and demolishes these forms, resolves them into their original elements, and thus prepares them for new and different organizations, under the plastic and powerful influence of its antagonist. Hence, no sooner does life forsake an organized body, than chemistry invades it, makes it its own, and reduces it to earthy matter, or scatters it in air.

As relates to the vegetable kingdom, in our own climate, spring, summer, and a part of autumn, are the period in which vitality is busy in its operations. During this time it embellishes and enriches our plains, and fields, and meadows, and gardens, with all that is gay and gorgeous in foliage and flowers, all that is delicious and valuable in fruit. But, with the last weeks of autumn, comes a frost, "a killing frost," which disrobes the vegetable kingdom of its beauties, and strews them on the ground. Now commence the orgies of chemistry, in the course of which, flowers, leaves and stalks, with an abundance of fruit, are all disorganized, diffused through air, in the form of gas, or reduced to a loose, earthy, and unsightly mass, adapted to the further purposes of life. Thus, in the wise and beneficent economy of nature, do these two antagonizing powers reciprocate benefits, and contribute abundantly to each others' employment. Vitality constructs animal and vegetable forms, that chemistry may dissolve them; and chemistry dissolves, that vitality may reconstruct.

But, true and obedient to the ordinances of nature, these two powers never *in fact* invade each others' rightful province. It is only in the visionary system, and unfounded report of the "chemico-physiologist" that such invasion is alone to be found. Where vitality works, chemistry is idle; where the former speaks the latter is silent.

The oak and the gigantic *Adansonia digitata* live and flourish a thousand years, the pride of the forest. During this long, patriarchal period, chemistry never attempts to molest them. They are monuments exclusively of the reign of vitality. But they die through age, or are overthrown by the tempest. Then do the workings of vitality in them cease. They become

then the property and domain of chemistry, and are resolved by it into masses of vegetable mould.

Of animal nature the same is true. The elephant lives centuries, and some of the cetaceous tribes as long perhaps as the oak or the *Adansonia*. During this time they are above the reach of chemistry. But death at length overtakes them, and all the changes of vitality cease. They become now striking examples of the reign of chemistry. Instead of digestion, assimilation, nutrition and secretion—putrefaction is the only process they manifest. Such is the destiny of the entire world of animals and vegetables. Governed for a season by the principles of vitality, they fall, at last, under the dominion of chemistry, and pass into elements.

To render this case the more striking and conclusive, warm-blooded animals are in the very condition best calculated to invite putrefaction. Their temperature is suitable, and they have, in their systems, the proper mixture of solids and fluids. Still, while their economy is the result of vital principles, neither in health nor disease does putrefaction occur in them. In sphacelation, the parts putrefy only when their vitality is completely extinct.

Still further to evince the absolute opposition between vitality and chemistry, the former not unfrequently checks the latter in its course. A vulture, a hyena, or a famished wolf, has feasted on putrid animal matter. In the course of an hour examine the half digested contents of its stomach, and you will find them perfectly free from taint. Their offensive odor is gone, with every other phenomenon that speaks of putridity.

A snake has swallowed a rabbit, a squirrel, or some other small animal. Owing to the difficulty created by the hair of the animal, and its not being masticated, it is digested slowly. From its being too large to be all contained, at once, in the stomach, or real digestive apparatus of the snake, a considerable portion of it remains in the gullet. Long before digestion is completed, that portion which has not yet entered the stomach, and is not, therefore, subject to any vital process, becomes putrid. But as soon as it makes its way into that organ, and receives the influence of its digestive function, its putrefactive taint is removed.

In these instances, the vital process of digestion takes an ascendancy over the chemical process of putrefaction; an ascendancy perfectly in the order of nature, the vital being confessedly the more elevated power. Other cases of a similar character might be easily cited.

Of those writers and teachers, who inculcate the hypothesis, that certain functions of the animal economy are performed by chemical agency alone, my notice shall be brief. The belief is so unreasonable, not to say absurd, that they are very few, at present, who make an open avowal of it. Some chemists do, indeed, still continue to talk and write about the chemical carbonation, decarbonation, and oxygenation of the blood, the superiority of the arterial to the venous blood, in its capacity for caloric, and the generation of heat, by the conversion of fluid into solid

matter; and the reverse. All this they do, as they would induce us to believe, to instruct us in the production of animal temperature; to persuade us that it is, in some way, the result of chemical agency. But their handling of the matter is so miserably loose, misty, and without point, that it is impossible to determine, to which class of pseudo-inquirers they belong, the purely chemical, or the chemico-physiological; or whether, like a certain equivocal animal,—the siren lacerta,—they do not bear a kind of amphibious being, subsisting, by turns, on simple error, in one school, and compound absurdity, in the other.

To those chemists who may contend that any one of the functions of living matter is performed by means exclusively chemical, I beg leave to propound a few interrogatories.

Can you perform any one of those functions in your laboratory? Can you there convert common alimentary matter, well masticated and imbued with saliva, into chyme, the first step in the process of digestion? Can you convert chyme into chyle—chyle into blood?—blood into muscle, tendon, or bone?—or can you form, from blood, the bile, saliva, pancreatic juice, or any other secreted fluid? To each of these questions the answer of the chemist is necessarily, No. I continue my interrogatories. Here is a bone fractured, and a muscle divided by a cutting instrument. Can you, by chemistry, effect a reunion? Again I receive from him a negative answer. My reply to him is, then is your hypothesis unfounded and visionary, or you are un instructed in the art you profess. You say that by chemical agency alone, food is digestive, blood composed, and the processes of nutrition and secretion effected. You are, by reputation, a chemist; yet you are unable to perform, by your art, the simplest of those functions. The dilemma is thus prepared for you; and on one of its horns you must necessarily hang. Confess, then, that your theory is false, or yourself ignorant.

But, perhaps, you can succeed better, as relates to the functions of the vegetable kingdom. Let us try. Your chance shall be a fair one.

Can you, from the sap of the rosebush, produce the beauty and fragrance of its blossoms?—no:—from the juice of the myrtle, the leaves and flowers, by which the plant is adorned?—no:—from the sap of the pomegranate tree, the beautiful and fragrant fruit which it bears?—no:—or can you, from the life-blood of the peach tree, produce even the gum which oozes from its stalk?—still is the answer no. What, then, can you do, in the performance, by chemistry, of a single animal or vegetable function?—Literally, not an act,—you can simply talk about it, and nothing more. You can deceive those who are as ignorant of the functions and laws of vitality as yourself; and thus are your boasted pretensions interpreted; and here does your art and mystery end.

But, by way of a reciprocated puzzle, or for some other purpose about as valuable, I am asked in turn, what is to be understood by the term *vitality*? I answer, vitality is to be interpreted in the same way as chemistry. They are both abstract terms, each being the representative of a peculiar set of phenomena or changes, in the material world, governed, of course, by peculiar laws. The same is true of the word *mechanics*. It denotes, in like manner, an insulated and specific set of phenomena, governed by laws peculiar to themselves.

The word chemistry is the symbol of all the facts and phenomena that belong to that science, together with the causes, to which they are attributable, and the laws that control them.

So, in like manner, is vitality the symbol of all the peculiar facts and phenomena, observable in the economy of living organized matter, with a similar reference to their principles and laws. I need scarcely add, that the phenomena of chemical matter, strictly so called, are as different and distinct from those of living matter, as are the phenomena of the mineral from those of the animal and vegetable kingdom. No enlightened and unprejudiced observer of nature will ever confound them.

But I am again, in the unprofitable spirit, not of solving difficulties, but of attempting to divert attention from one difficulty, by meeting it with another, asked, what is to be understood by the principles and laws of vitality: or, in simpler language, what those laws and principles are?

I answer, that in a paper, like the present, it is not permitted me to attempt an explanation of them. Such a disquisition could not be compassed within the limits, to which I must confine myself. To do it entire justice, a volume would be scarcely sufficient. But I fearlessly add, that they are as well settled in science, and as accurately understood, by the cultivated physiologist, as are those of chemistry by the votaries of that science, or those of mechanics by the natural philosopher. From the mere chemist, whose views are confined to his closet and his laboratory, and who has never made life and its functions his study, they are necessarily concealed. Nor, had he the least discretion, would he ever speak of them, either as an asserter or denier of their existence; nor for the purpose of giving an exposition of them; in which case, he would escape the disgrace to himself, and the mortification to his friends, of exposing his ignorance, and perpetually burying himself in blunders with respect to them.

As connected with the present discussion, another topic, of no common interest, claims, for a moment, our serious attention.

It is asserted by some chemists, and perhaps by others who are not chemists, that out of a mass of matter, no substance can be produced, either simple or compound, which did not *formally* exist in that mass, possessed of all its peculiar qualities. That if, by a series of chemical processes, iron and sulphur can be extracted from the human blood, the fact amounts to proof incontestable, that iron, possessed of all its metallic, and sulphur, of its mineral properties, were actually and formally in the blood, as it circulated in its vessels, a living fluid. And that, if by the process of combustion, potash can be produced from a log of hickory, or maple, the potash must have existed *formally*, a constituent part of the log, marked by all its alkaline qualities.

If this opinion be not signalized by its absurdity, in the midst of opinions most absurd, then am I deceived in my views of it. Its chief advocates are the humoral pathologists, whose object is to prove, by it, that whatever substance can be extorted from the human blood or other fluids, even in the most complicated series of chemical experiments, existed necessarily, in its formal character, in the blood, as it circulated through the system, and in the other fluids, in their proper receptacles. Having an immediate bearing, then, as well on practical as scientific medi-

cine, the hypothesis is peculiarly worthy of our consideration.

Before proceeding, further, in the illustration of this topic, let me here observe, that until subjected to the processes of decomposition, and recomposition, the one by combustion, and the other by the requisite chemical agents, wood exhibits no sign of alkalescency, nor blood of its holding, in its composition, either iron or sulphur. Of those two compounds, then, these substances are not the native products. They are the result, not of the functions of animals and vegetables, but of the chemical processes by which they are made manifest.

It has been already stated, that the rich and fragrant blossom of the lotus of the Nile, is formed exclusively out of the turbid waters and their slimy sediment of its parent river. But does it thence follow, that the exquisite fragrance, in its actual condition, and possessed of the qualities which render it so precious, pre-exists in those waters? Show me the humoralist who will answer in the affirmative.

The epidendrum aerium, with the beauty and delicious odor of its blossom, is fed and formed out of the atmosphere around it. But no one will contend that the odor pre-existed formally in that atmosphere in a latent state, awaiting the flower to take it up, set it at liberty, and render it sensible.

Some of the canes, with their rich and finely flavored saccharine juices, are nourished and produced from the soil in which they grow, and others, as is believed, from the atmosphere alone. But no one imagines that those juices, in their formal state, have an actual existence either in the earth or the air. Such an hypothesis could prevail only within the walls of a mad-house.

Wine is prepared from the grape. The grape is prepared from the sap-juice of the vine, and that from the soil and atmosphere by which the vine is nourished. But who will have the wildness and hardihood to maintain, that the provinces of Champagne and Burgundy, in France, contain in their soil and atmosphere, the racy and sparkling beverages to which they have given their names?

It has been already stated, that the sugar contained in some of the canes is formed from the atmosphere, and that in others, from the soil in which they grow. From sugar is produced, by a chemical process, the fluid called alcohol. But no chemical process can procure that fluid from either the earth or the atmosphere by which the canes are nourished. Nor has the spirit of hypothesis yet grown so rampant, as to contend that it *formally* exists in them.

Water is one of the deadliest foes of combustion, and is, therefore, employed as among the most effectual means to extinguish it. Yet is that fluid compounded of two gases, one of them itself highly combustible, and the other the universal feeder of combustion; and both of them can be easily extracted from it. Will any philosopher, then, undertake to maintain that hydrogen and oxygen, in the full possession of all their properties, actually and formally exist in their compound called water? Folly itself will shrink from the absurdity of an affirmative reply. But I retract the expression. There is folly so consummate that it does not shrink from it. The reply has been virtually given in this place. I myself have been repeatedly the "wonder-wounded hearer" of it.

From two varieties or, perhaps, species, of the Pe-

ruvian bark are procured, by a chemical process, quinine and cinchonine, and from the bark of the *cornus floridus*, the article called cornine.

But I am far from being yet convinced, either that those substances exist formally in the barks, from which they are derived, or possess their native properties. On the contrary, my present persuasion is that they do not. They are chemical compositions, not native products.

If we extend our researches into the animal kingdom, we shall find there matter in abundance equally subversive of the hypothesis I am examining.

Chemists inform us that the muscle of an ox is composed chiefly of oxygen, hydrogen, azote, and carbon. But they will not hazard their reputation by contending, that, in that portion of solid flesh, when possessed of life, and performing the function of voluntary motion, either of those constituents exists, in its formal condition, characterized by its qualities as an elementary substance. Nor will they allege that the viper finds, in the simple fare, on which it subsists, its deadly poison already formed.

In like manner with that of the foregoing, the explanation of the following facts sets chemistry at defiance.

The effect of nitrate of silver, taken for some time internally, is to blacken the skin. The belief of chemico-physiologists is, that this is the result of an impregnation of the blood by that metallic salt, and a deposition of it in the skin. Yet from the blood not a particle of it can be procured by any process to which that fluid can be subjected. Nor is it found in the skin, to which it has imparted a dark color. The effect arises from a change in the secretory action of the skin, produced sympathetically, by the direct action of the nitrate of silver on the mucus tissue of the stomach.

Put an individual, either in health or disease, on a course of sulphur, and, in a few weeks, so impregnated will be his perspiration, by that mineral, that it will blacken the silver which he carries in his pocket. Yet is there, now, no more sulphur *formally* in his blood, than at any other time. Nor, can any more be procured from it by chemical agency.

The same is true, as respects iron, after a long course of chalybeate medicine. None of that metal is *formally* in the blood; nor can it be extracted from it, in larger quantities, by means of chemistry, than in cases where no chalybeates have been taken.

In the milk of females, and in the perspiration and urine of every person, who have swallowed large quantities of asafoetida, garlic, or spirits of turpentine, the odor of those articles becomes strongly perceptible. But, in their blood, not the slightest degree of the odor exists. That fluid retains its natural smell.

The explanation of these phenomena, I say, sets all chemical laws at defiance. By the laws of vitality alone can it be effected. They prove incontestably, that, out of compound substances, may be formed many matters, which did not formally exist in them.

To this class of preposterous opinions belongs that which proclaims ice to be nothing but water in its *natural state*. And certainly an opinion *more* preposterous, the human intellect can scarcely imagine. Ice can indeed be formed out of water, and water out of ice. They are, therefore, convertible into each other. So is rich vegetable mould convertible into a cabbage stalk, and a cabbage stalk re-convertible into mould. A pig, by digestion, assimilation, and

nutrition, may be converted into a man, and a man, by the same process, into a pig. Yet they are not the same. Vegetable mould is neither the natural state of cabbage, nor cabbage of vegetable mould. Nor, although there are men as stupid as pigs, is a pig the natural state of a man. Yet as well may identity be predicated of them, as of ice and water.

According to the showing of chemists themselves, these two substances are, in a high degree, different from each other.

Water is a compound substance, consisting of certain given proportions of oxygen, hydrogen, and caloric. But it is a law of chemistry, of which many confirmatory illustrations might be adduced, that, by varying the proportions of elementary substances, you change essentially the nature of the compounds into which they enter.

Ice consists of oxygen and hydrogen, with a smaller proportion of caloric than water contains. It is, therefore, a compound substance essentially different from the water out of which it is formed. It is different in proportion to the inferior quantity of caloric it contains. Give to it the amount of caloric which exists in water, and you reduce it to water. * * *

Let me entreat the advocate of the opinion I am opposing, to recollect, for a moment, and seriously consider, how exceedingly limited and superficial is our knowledge of matter. We know of it nothing but its properties. Of its substance we are ignorant, and must for ever remain so, because we have no faculties adapted to the acquisition of a knowledge of substances. Speculations, as to the nature and character of that, as well as in relation to all essences and entities, are but empty visions, and to us transcendental.

Remove from matter all its properties, and, as concerns us, you extinguish it. Change the properties, and you change the matter. To us it is no longer the same, but different, according to the new properties bestowed on it. To illustrate this by examples.

Take from a piece of gold its figure, size, solidity, color, ductility, and weight, and, to us, the gold has no existence. Take from a peach or pomegranate, the same properties, together with its odor and sapidity, and the fruit is annihilated.

Give to a peach or a pomegranate the figure, size, solidity, color, weight, sapidity, and odor of an apple or a pear, and you convert it into one or the other of those kinds of fruit.

Bestow on gold the solidity, weight, ductility, and color of silver or lead, and silver or lead is the product of the change. Of every other kind of matter, the same is true. You annihilate or transmute it, according as you annul or change its properties. To us, essence, substance, and entity are but abstract terms—the mere symbols of our own conceptions, and nothing more. They represent nothing but an imaginary substratum of qualities, whose influence alone gives us a belief in the existence of that substratum. Remove or extinguish the qualities, and, to us, the substratum is changed.

Identity of property, then, constitutes, to us, identity of substance, and diversity of property, diversity of substance. If to this proposition an exception exists, the knowledge of it would be gratifying to me.

But in the fundamental properties of *solidity*, and *weight*, as well as in the less important ones of *color* and *texture*, ice and water are essentially different. To pronounce them the same, then, is a palpable vio-

lation, at once, of reason, and common sense. Both physically and chemically their difference is obvious. As consistently with truth may it be asserted that blood is the natural state of the muscle, or the sap-juice of the pear tree, of the pear into which it is converted, or the reverse, as that ice is the natural state of water. Finally, as well may it be contended, that oxygen and hydrogen, out of which water is formed, constitute the natural state of that fluid; or, that water constitutes the natural state of the two gases that form it. View the hypothesis as you may, it is infinitely preposterous. Yet is it gravely announced, by writers and teachers, as a chemical axiom.

Were it true that in the mutations of matter, the product is always and necessarily identical with the substance, or mass of substances, out of which it is formed, the result would be inconceivably monstrous and ludicrous.

We, the inhabitants of the west and south, would be but masses of pork, hominy, and cabbage; our fellow citizens, of the eastern and middle States, compounds of beef, flour, butter, and buck-wheat cakes; while the hardy and intrepid sons of New England would be chemical compositions of cod-fish and molasses. The Englishman would be roast-beef and strong beer, the Irishman a huge and sound hearted potatoe suitably garnished with curds and whey, the Frenchman a mixture of bread and soupe-maigre, the Spaniard and the Portuguese an overgrown onion swimming in olive oil, and the Chinese and the Hindoo an aggregate of rice. Under such circumstances, ancient fable would be perfectly beggared by existing reality. [To be continued.]

TARTAR EMETIC.—With the exception of calomel, there is perhaps no mineral poison more frequently administered to the sick than this preparation of antimony. It is readily distinguished from the vegetable emetics by its being a white powder which is entirely soluble in water. The old school doctors depend chiefly upon this article when they wish to excite vomiting. It operates by creating a high degree of irritation in the stomach. The irritation occasioned by it is sometimes transient, in which case it is productive of no great injury; but it not unfrequently leaves the mucus membrane, or inner coat of the stomach, in a state of inflammation, which generally results in chronic ulceration. The condition of the stomach gives rise to those aggravated symptoms of dyspepsy which so universally baffle the skill of the learned doctors. Some idea can be formed of the condition of the stomach under the continued influence of this mineral, by observing its effects when applied to the surface of the body. When designed for external use it is made into an ointment, and applied in the form of a plaster. After being in contact with the skin a few hours, a disagreeable sensation of heat and itching is experienced, which gradually increases, until the part becomes inflamed, swelled, and very painful. At this time a multitude of pustules arise, very nearly resembling those of small-pox. These proceed rapidly to suppuration and ulceration; and if the ointment is continued, the part to which it is applied becomes at length one deep-seated ulcer. Now we appeal to the good sense of every candid person, whether a poison which thus disorganizes the firm texture of the skin can be introduced into the stomach with impunity.

LEGISLATURE OF MICHIGAN.

November 17, 1837.—The Senate resolved itself into committee of the whole, on the revised laws, Chap. 44.

OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES, ETC.

The question being on striking out the 8th section.

Mr. ELLIS said he was opposed altogether to the principle of the bill. He would give them corporate powers, but the powers set up in this bill, of saying who shall, and who shall not, practise physic and surgery, was erroneous in principle. All professions in the community have the same claims. He would ask where there was any guard in this bill against malpractice. It is erecting a tribunal unknown to the constitution and laws of the country. He hoped the section would be stricken out. He would give them powers to form a corporation and admit members, but not the power to control others.

Mr. MOORE said he was opposed to striking out. He did not wish to give one body of men power over another; but the legislative body should take care that no person should practice medicine until he was properly qualified. He wished that those who practice on the botanic system might have their society. Every person is exposed to accident and disease, and we must frequently be under the necessity of having recourse to medical aid; and to be exposed to the practice of unqualified and ignorant persons, is putting our lives in jeopardy. Those who practice medicine, ought to be properly qualified and recommended by the laws of our country. To strike out this section would destroy the bill—he would encourage those who practice to attain a knowledge of their profession. He wished every man to stand on equal rights, but he wished at the same time to have an assurance that every medical man understands his business before he be allowed to practice.

Mr. ELLIS said if there was any abuse in the practice of medicine he would leave it to the ordinary tribunals. It was competent for them to call witnesses and examine persons with respect to the qualifications of others. It would give more protection to the people; in the case at present under consideration the protection is for the men who are constituted their own judges.

Mr. BARRY said the remarks of the gentleman over the way, (Mr. Moore,) were predicated upon the supposition that the information and knowledge to be obtained at medical schools, and by the study of medicine, was such knowledge as would enable its possessor to cure diseases. He would not deny his position; but there were a respectable portion of the people in this state who did deny it. They assert that the practice and theory of the "regular practitioner" are constantly varying—that the literati of the profession show by their books that what would be considered quackery at the present day, would ten years ago have been adjudged orthodox practice. He would not decide between the contending parties of persons claiming to possess knowledge of the healing art. He would give all equal privileges. If any individual was able to cure the diseases to which human life was subject, he would put no restrictions upon him. If he possesses this ability to cure, it will be known to his fellow citizens, and that was all the public good required. The possession of a piece of painted parchment will not ensure the possession of knowledge. He would, however, give to the profes-

sion corporate powers, with the right of holding real and personal estate; and he would also give the same privileges to that class of citizens called botanic doctors. He would not give exclusive privileges to either. They should have no legislative authority to worry and devour each other. Each party must rest their claims to public favor and patronage upon their own separate merits. Gentlemen had said that the people require protection from the impositions of ignorant quacks. He had never heard any complaint on this subject from the people. So far as he knew, they considered themselves fully competent to employ such professors of the healing art as were competent to administer to their relief.

Mr. ELLIS said he intended offering an amendment which, if adopted, would protect the people better than this. He would not allow a corporation of doctors to try offences cognizable by the laws of the land. Lawyers do not ask for corporate powers to try one another for offences or ignorance in practice.

Mr. MUNDY said, when the matter was under discussion yesterday, there seemed to be a disposition to make some amendment, so as to include that class of persons practising the botanic system. Perhaps, if the gentleman had been present who made the proposition, the amendment might have been proposed. This is not now a question between that class of physicians and the regular M.D.'s. The question before us is not whether one or the other of those classes shall be allowed to practice, but whether all persons shall be allowed to practise physic. The modification of the law proposed by the amendment, will allow every person, however ignorant he may be, to practice. If we do this, we shall innovate upon the practice in most other states. In some states, the Thomsonians were allowed to practise, but in no state that he was acquainted with, was the practice of medicine thrown open to every person. To do so in this state, would not be taking proper care of the public health, which was the object of this law. With regard to the objections made by the gentleman from St. Josephs, that the practice of medical men has frequently changed; that what was considered good practice ten years ago, may now be considered as quackery—this may be true. Medical systems and treatment of diseases may have changed repeatedly, but because the system had changed, it did not follow that a person now practising should not be required to know something of the human system, and something about the properties of the medicines he would prescribe. If this section be stricken out, it will open the door to every person, however ignorant of the nature and properties of drugs; and it might, and would, endanger the health and lives of many individuals. By the law at present, medical men are liable for malpractice in the same way that other professional men are for damages occasioned by ignorance of their own proper business. The 15th section is not intended to provide a remedy for malpractice, but to authorize Medical Boards to take their licenses from such practitioners as had by infamy, drunkenness, or the exhibition of gross ignorance and incompetency, forfeited all claims to confidence and respect. This was no unusual—no unconstitutional power; it is a power exercised by courts of justice over members of the bar—a power exercised by theological boards over their members—a power necessary for the good character of the society, and protective of the people

against the recklessness, if not the crimes of empiricism.

The question being taken, the motion *prevailed!*

Mr. Ellis then moved to strike out the 11th section.

Mr. Barry said, one person may acquire a certain degree of knowledge in half the time another person may attain it. It was equally immaterial whether they require one or four years—it was opposed to the just principles of things to require a certain time to acquire a certain degree of knowledge.

Mr. RUMSEY said he was opposed to striking out. He believed the general standard of practice was getting lower, which was the reason of its turning over—the principle of letting down was operating against the universities. Men practising medicine ought to be qualified—they ought to know the nature of the drugs they administer—every person practising ought to come recommended for competency,—and who could give a recommendation with so much propriety as a board of physicians. He did not care whether they were persons using botanic medicines or drugs. He would give equal rights to all. To acquire knowledge it was necessary for men to study, and he did not think that the same degree of knowledge could now be acquired in six months, which formerly required six years to attain. If this were stricken out the vital part of the bill would be destroyed, and he could not go for it.

Mr. McDONELL said he hoped such objectionable principles would not be engrafted in this law. He was willing that there should be a law to govern our medical men, but he would not give them so much power. There was no such law in the populous state of Ohio, and in North Carolina a similar law had been repealed.

On motion, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

OPINION OF THOMAS JEFFERSON, ON THE STATE OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.—[From his letter to Dr. Wistar.]—We know, from what we see and feel, that the animal body is in its organs and functions, subject to derangement, inducing pain and tending to its destruction. In this disordered state, we observe nature providing for the re-establishment of order, by exciting some salutary evacuation of the morbid matter, or by some other operation, which escapes our imperfect sense and researches. She brings on a crisis by stools, vomiting, sweat, urine, expectoration, &c. which for the most part ends in the restoration of healthy action. Experience has taught us also, that there are certain substances, by which, applied to the living body, internally or externally, we can, at will, produce the same evacuations, and thus do, in a short time, what nature would but slowly, and do effectually, what perhaps she would not have strength to accomplish. * * Here then the judicious, the humane physician, should stop. But the adventurous physician goes on, and substitutes presumption for knowledge—from the scanty field of what is known, he launches into the boundless regions of what is unknown. He establishes for his guide, some fanciful theory, of corpuscular attraction, of chemical agency, of ineffectual powers, of stimuli, of irritability accumulated or exhausted, of depletion by the lancet, repletion by mercury or some other ingenious dream, which lets him into nature's secrets at short hand. On the principle which he thus assumes, he forms his tables of nosology, arranges his

diseases into families, and extends his curative treatment (says he), by analogy, to all he has thus marshaled together.

I have lived myself to see the disciples of Hoffman, Boerhaave, Stahl, Cullen, and Brown, succeed one another, like the shifting figures of the magic lantern, and their fancies, like the dresses of the annual doll babies, from Paris, becoming from their novelty the vogue of the day, and yielding to the next novelty, their ephemeral favors. The patient treated on the fashionable theory, sometimes gets well, in spite of the medicine. The medicine, therefore, restored him, and the young doctor receives new courage to proceed in his bold experiments on the lives of his fellow creatures.

I believe we may safely affirm, that the inexperienced and presumptuous band of medical tyros, let loose upon the world, destroy more human life in one year, than all the Robin Hoods, Cartouches, and Macbeths do in a century.

It is in this part of medicine that I wish to see a reform; an abandonment of hypothesis for sober facts. The first degree of value set on clinical observation, and the lowest on visionary theories.

The only sure foundations of medicine are an intimate knowledge of the functions of the human body and observation of the effects of medicinal substances on them. The physiological and clinical schools, therefore, are those in which the young physician should be formed.

If he enters, with innocence, that of the theory of medicine, it is scarcely possible that he should come out untainted with error. His mind must be strong indeed, if rising above juvenile credulity, he can maintain a wise infidelity against the authority of his instructors, and the bewitching delusions of their theories.

I hope, and believe, that it is from this side of the Atlantic, that Europe, which has taught us so many other things, will be led into sound principles in this branch of science, the most important of all others, being that to which we commit the care of health and life.

THOMAS JEFFERSON,

CANCERS.—Cancers are generally very alarming, as people for the most part consider them incurable. If regular quacks attempt to cure them, it is generally by some means worse than the disease. Cutting or eating them out with arsenic is always painful and dangerous. When cut from one place, they often appear in some other part of the body, or in the same place. The reason of this is very plain—the cause is not removed. It is frequently like cutting off the limbs of a tree, which soon produces more. Only take the tree up by the roots, and no more branches will appear. By a thorough cleansing of the system, by which the canker is completely eradicated, both root and branch, a cure will be obtained. Nothing will do this so well as the Thomsonian medicines.

The Eastern Argus says that Valentine Cook of Dearborn, choked to death while eating his supper, at Mr. Philbrick's tavern in Sidney, on the 18th ult. On making an incision into his throat, near the root of the tongue, a large piece of beef-steak, three inches long, one and a half wide, and half of an inch thick, was discovered; and in such a situation as to form a complete valve over the passage to the lungs and stomach,

HINTS TO PRACTITIONERS BY DR. A. C. LOGAN.

—I wish to excite the attention of your readers, in particular those who are Thomsonian practitioners, to the consideration of the importance of never losing sight of in their practice, or departing from the great fundamental dogmas which sustain, and in fact, upon which the whole superstructure of the Botanic Practice is based. Frequent instances may be recalled to memory where, in consequence of want of comprehension or inattention, many find themselves in a dilemma, they never pause to enquire, am I correct? or has the case been prescribed for and treated upon the principles inculcated in the Guide? No, they immediately condemn the system and deplore their infatuation for relying upon a theory which they can only deprecate, and all their ire is hurled upon the head of Dr. Thomson as the author and cause of their delusion. How often have they asserted that the rapid convalescence and cures performed by the Doctor as recorded in his Narrative, where delusive, and in fact, never were effected, and only existed in his own brain, and many firmly believe there never was a cure of confirmed consumption that was eradicated from the system, either by him or any of his disciples. When a close investigation has followed such broad affirmations, it has invariably resulted in their confusion and condemnation. I have always called their attention to the peculiar circumstances in which Dr. Thomson was placed, and the difficulties under which he was constantly laboring and suffering. He might, at that period of life, have been emphatically designated as an itinerant physician, intent only on promulgating his discoveries and proving the same by the unparalleled success and the very short time in which all was accomplished. How was this done? In the first place, as he could not remain long in one neighborhood, he depended on his courses (and they were thoroughgoing;) and at very short intervals between each course; his patients were properly shielded from the action of the external air, perspiration was supported to the proper extent and the whole process was continued under his own supervision: nothing was neglected or oversighted, particularly enemas or injections, which are of more intrinsic value than one half of the fraternity can appreciate. In the second place, all his medicine was recent, collected at the proper season and cured in the most perfect manner, (no mistake of substituting one plant for another as has too often occurred.) His No. 3 and No. 4 were not composed each of two articles; he did not rely upon his emetic and steam to do all the work through the agency of his patient's system, of cleansing and removing the morbid matter from the stomach and intestines and purifying the blood through the action of the depurating organs. No such thing; no such infatuation. He manufactured his No. 3 with marsh rosemary, hemlock inner bark (of young trees) bayberry root bark, sumach and the other articles enumerated in the Guide, and, his No. 4 was made of aspen root bark, barberry root bark and balmony. I declare it without fear of contradiction, that balmony was a most important and prominent article in his materia medica, and in the treatment of consumption in particular, when it is so absolutely necessary to arouse into healthy action the secretory and secerning vessels;

to give tone to that all important gland the liver, so that it will generate and secrete pure bile, in sufficient quantity to act as nature always intended it should, as natural physic to the body. Hot specific bitters were then unknown and I have often thought it would have been a blessing to the whole of us, had this combination remained in obscurity. Tonics are wanted—pure tonics, as black aspen root bark, barberry root bark, balmony, bitter root and golden seal. Get the fraternity to adopt and pursue this course, and the bright example of our worthy preceptor, and we shall but seldom hear repining and self-castigation, for courses so easily averted. Confirmatory to this assertion I can demand the evidence of Dr. Burton of Philadelphia, who will testify that he has had no difficulty in pulmonary complaints since he adopted my views and conformed his practice thereunto.

THE SPONGE.—When we look into the volume of nature, ten thousand wonders meet us on every hand. If we but glance at the ocean, though at first we think it a waste of waters, yet we find that it contributes unnumbered comforts and conveniences for the use of man. How wondrous is the chain of being? So gradual is the change that a mere link unites the animal with the vegetable kingdom, and the superiority which the lowest grade of animals has over the highest order of vegetables, is not as great as is often seen among individuals of the same species.

In the connecting link between animals and plants, naturalists reckon the sponge. Though its general appearance resembles a plant, yet its internal structure, as well as chemical analysis, shows that it is an animal. It lives at the bottom of the sea, where it is firmly attached to the rocks and stones. Water furnishes its only nutriment. When it is alive and wet it is nearly transparent, and on certain parts there is found a multitude of yellow, opaque spots, visible to the naked eye.—These are eggs, which in a few months enlarge in size, assume a pear-shaped form, and are covered with hairs. Then they become detached from the parent, one after another, and float along the current for a day or two, when finding a suitable place, they fix themselves firmly to a rock or stone, there increase to the adult size, and then, in their turn, send forth their progeny.—[Sailor's Magazine.

THE DEAD ALIVE!—A French paper relates that an old retired officer living at Saintes, in the Charente Inférieure, lately fell into a lethargy, which lasted a long time. He was believed to be dead, and preparations were made to bury him with military honors. He was aroused, however, by the firing of the platoon over his grave, which took place before the coffin was covered by earth, and he made a tremendous uproar! The coffin was opened to see what was the matter, and the old officer crawled out, and walked home.

POETRY AND PHYSIC.—A doctor and a poet quarrelling, an indifferent person was referred to, to settle the dispute: the latter made the following reply:

You're faulty both—do penance for your crimes;
Bard, take his physic—Doctor, read his rhymes.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS OF THE NEW YORK CONSPIRACY AGAINST DR. FROST.—The Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel, of December 7, contains a letter from its editor, dated at New York, detailing some further particulars in relation to the conspiracy of the Regulars of that city against Dr. Frost, the Thomsonian. We extract the subjoined, as worthy of record.

"A more black-hearted piece of knavery on the part of the medical faculty was perhaps never known. But their infamous schemes will fall to the ground—their 'violent dealings' will recoil upon their own heads. It is generally thought by the Thomsonians that Cheeseman caused the death of Mr. French—and it is confidently asserted by many that this scientific knave will be arrested and tried for his life. If justice is done, he certainly will not escape the rope. I learn that he stands at the head of the faculty in this place. This is contrary to my expectation—I supposed he was some novice in the healing art who had just received a diploma, and felt himself justified in any species of outrage which would tend to injure the Thomsonians. Dr. Cheeseman being the great gun of the medical profession here, he is permitted to murder with impunity, and his almost daily sacrifices do not excite a moment's attention. He is almost 45 years of age, lives in Broadway, drives his carriage, and is immensely rich. I am not aware that his character will bear investigation. He was formerly a member of the Society of Friends, but from some cause or other was disowned as unworthy of membership.

"Cheeseman's father-in-law, Willet Hicks, a Quaker gentleman of the highest respectability, is an avowed Thomsonian. He purchased a Right in Baltimore, immediately after Burke's trial, which he attended with a view of ascertaining the truth or falsity of the Thomsonian system. The result was his complete conviction. I mention this fact to show that Thomsonism is advocated in this place by men of the highest character and standing.

"Mr. French, who died at Dr. Frost's Infirmary, was a confirmed Thomsonian. He had long been disgusted with the old school practice. His mother had been seriously injured by taking mineral poisons, and regarded the apothecary doctors as so many murderers.

"The deceased was interred *four days* before he was exhumed. Who ever heard of such juggling! And how, I ask, could a post mortem examination under such circumstances afford any satisfactory information as to the death of the deceased? The coroner, I understand, received several anonymous letters in relation to the death of Mr. French, suggesting that there should be an examination of the body. Who wrote those letters but the regular doctors, who wished to enact their fiendish projects in the dark? The first examination of witnesses before the coroner's jury was in private. The proceedings of the *Inquisition* were not to be known to the world. Dr. Cheeseman was present—the presiding fiend—and controlled in a great measure the examination. He was observed to pass from one to another of his professional brethren—his infamous co-wishers—directing them what questions to ask of the witnesses. But the black and detestable plot is not likely to succeed. Dr. Metcalf, of this city, (New York,) has furnished me with the following particulars in relation to the atrocious affair:

"The coroner, in addition to the anonymous letters which he had received, stated, in his first visit to Dr. Frost's Infirmary, that he had been waited upon by Dr. Rogers and Mr. Hopson (a magistrate of the police court) who requested him to notice the extraordinary death of Mr. French. The *public good*, he said, required the investigation. The names of Dr. Roleston and Miss Ray were procured as witnesses. The ensuing day being Sabbath, the coroner said that 'his duty would require him to break in upon its sanctity.' Dr. Frost, he added, should have a fair hearing, but instead of this, every effort was made to conduct the post mortem examination in private. But the friends of Dr. Frost learned, by accident, when the proceedings were to take place, and availed themselves of the opportunity to attend.

"The body was disinterred several hours before the examination took place. The body was then taken from the coffin in the most brutal manner; the grave-clothes were torn into strings; two or three of the doctors stripped off their coats, and proceeded to the examination like so many butchers, while others had assembled here and there in groupes, endeavoring to prejudice the minds of the people. The head was opened, the brains were taken out and scattered upon the ground. The body was then thrown into the coffin without any covering, and returned to the grave. The doctors and their students were freely admitted before the jury, while it was intended that the Thomsonians should be entirely excluded."

QUACKERY.—[Extracts from a letter of Dr. Waterhouse.]—If Samuel Thomson was a quack, Hippocrates and all the Greek physicians were quacks, and all the Jewish ones also; and every Roman physician, not only through the entire Roman republic, but down through all the Roman emperors, and all the first ages of christianity, and down through all the dark ages, and until long after the revival of letters in Italy.

Ancient Medical Practice.—Prior to 1400 there were no regular schools of anatomy, and the science of chemistry was unknown, and until the Arabians brought the *medicinal* chemistry into use. The art and practice of physic was the result of *experience*, and was a collection of facts delivered verbally from father to son, and from tutor to pupil.

Anterior to 1745, the study and practice of physic was very little variant, if any, [in principle,] from what Samuel Thomson, the patriarch of the *lobelia* and *steam* system, has, by great pains and labor, accumulated during more than forty years of an industrious life.

The most solid, immovable, and valuable portion of our art, is derived from *experience*; and the best qualification of it is *sagacity*, and the next to that is *industry*—all of which the patriarch, Samuel Thomson, possesses eminently. The *scientific* physician follows and copies the rules of others, and that constitutes the *learned* physician; but Samuel Thomson studied the *Book of Nature*—that is, the nature of man, and every thing about him, as did the famous physicians among the ancients, and some of the best and most successful among the moderns. I rank Samuel Thomson among *discoverers*, and respect him as such. He is not an impostor.

BENJAMIN WATERHOUSE.

Cambridge, 11th December, 1835.

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, JANUARY 1, 1838.

THOMSONIANS, ATTENTION!

The THOMSONIAN ASSOCIATION will hold their annual meeting, for the choice of officers, on Tuesday evening, January 11, 1838, at 7 o'clock, at the residence of Dr. J. W. CHAPMAN, No. 40 Salem-street. A punctual attendance of the members is requested, as it is expected other important business will come before them.

M. R. POLLARD, Secretary.

N. B.—"Family Right Holders," who are not trespassers on *Dr. Samuel Thomson's rights*, are invited to attend.

THE TRIAL OF RICHARD K. FROST.

New York Court of Sessions—Wednesday Dec. 13.—Before the Recorder (Riker), Aldermen Aker and Taylor.

As we supposed would be the case, the trial of Frost, has excited immense attention in New York city, and not only so, but it is kindling a vast and widely extending flame, from one extremity of the country to the other, which never will be quenched until its has consumed and prostrated in dust and ashes, every vestige of medical tyranny, mysticism, monopoly, ignorance, folly, falsehood, and villainy.

We have now before us the proceedings to Dec. 18, occupying thus far about *sixteen columns* of the *New York Herald*—and as yet not a tithe of the testimony for the defence hath been heard. The witnesses for the prosecution were *all regular doctors*, except the brother of the deceased, and no one who knows that their craft is at stake, will need information as to the character of their testimony. The names of the witnesses for the prosecution and the order in which they were called, was as follows:—Ulysses D. French, brother of deceased; Dr. Cheeseman, the *regular* who *doctored* the deceased; Dr. Joseph M. Smith, Cheeseman's associate in *doctoring* the deceased; Dr. David L. Rogers, who made the post mortem examination; Dr. James R. Chilton, a chemist, who analyzed the intestinal contents of the deceased; and a Dr. Chandler Gilman—six in all. The sum total of their testimony, may be comprised in these words: "Lobelia is poison, and the deceased was killed by it." Dr. Rogers made one statement in this remarkable manner: "As a PROFESSIONAL man, I consider his death was occasioned by the lobelia given to him." We are sorry that he was not asked to state his opinion as a *non-professional* man. But probably that would have been equally remarkable; for if a man under oath will falsify the truth, under some specious covering, he would not, if closely pressed, hesitate at point blank perjury.

For the defence, thus far, these persons have testified, viz: Mr. Perez S. Whiting, keeper of a shoe store, with whom deceased boarded. He testified, among other particulars, that "the deceased first

complained on the 3rd Oct. at breakfast table that he had no appetite; he had overloaded his stomach at a supper the night before; on Wednesday, he said he felt worse; he gave as a reason, that on Tuesday evening he had to sit up till past 12, and write a will for a dying man," &c. "On Thursday night, after he came from school, and was going out, he said, he 'felt so badly, it was impossible for him to stand it many days longer.' He boarded with me, but did not dine at my house. He passed through the store and it seemed to be with the greatest exertion that he could drag himself along. Knew no more of him till Saturday evening, when his brother came to me and said, Tiberius had a good deal of fever, but had every attention. The next I knew was, that he was dead and buried. Have taken lobelia 20 years ago—went through twenty courses in one summer. Do not think lobelia more poisonous than coffee; if we take *enough* it will kill a man. I am no Thomsonian, I am a Grahamite. I have more confidence in lobelia than I have in the regular practice, for I think it cured my boy"—whose case had been before spoken of. This is the substance, and most important part of this witness's testimony, in his own words.

The next witness for the defence was the sister of the *prisoner*, Miss ANN FROST. Her examination and cross examination was exceedingly severe, and her testimony occupies nearly four columns space. She stated the symptoms and treatment (so far as she knew it) of the deceased, in a very clear and concise manner, and in a style which we think is in the highest degree creditable both to her head and heart. Remarking upon Miss Frost's testimony, the editor of the N. Y. Herald only pays it a well-deserved compliment by saying that, besides its importance concerning the question at issue, "it also shows the care and sympathy shown by woman in the trying moments of man's life, and the truth of the poet's remarks on woman—

'When pain and sickness wring the brow,
'A ministering angel thou.'

The third witness for the defence was the nurse, Miss Margaret Ray. Her testimony occupies three and a half columns. The Herald says—"This young woman looks the picture of health and happiness. She is apparently about 22, although she says she has been a sick-nurse five years, and has gone through a hundred courses of Thomsonian medicine. According to her account Drs. Cheeseman and Smith killed young French."

The fourth witness was George Roleston, the Assistant of Dr. Frost, whose testimony occupies nearly four and a half columns. And he was succeeded by Dr. Eneas Metcalf, (Thomsonian,) who also had rendered to Frost his counsel and assistance—which we shall again advert to—and this closes the proceedings so far as we have them.

The following are the most prominent facts made manifest by the testimony of the witnesses for the defence, thus far, (not including that of Whiting,) in the fewest words in which we can give them.

On Thursday, Oct. 5th, Tiberius G. French went to the Infirmary of Dr. Frost, with the knowledge and approbation of his brother. On Friday morning he was subjected to a course of medicine, by which he was much relieved. On the following night, towards morning, patient accidentally threw off the bed-clothes, by which perspiration was checked and a relapse brought on. On Saturday morning it was

intended to administer a second full course, but the patient's brother objecting, it was unfortunately deferred till next day, (Sunday,) when the brother consented to its administration, and the patient was again on the recovery. Symptoms continued favorable until Monday evening, when patient's brother again called, accompanied by a (regular) Dr. Davis, as he had very frequently done before. Of the manner in which these gentlemen conducted themselves over the sick-bed, let a few words of the testimony speak. The gentlemen had that day been on a military parade. We copy from the testimony of Miss Ray, viz: "About 6 or 7 o'clock I was on the sidewalk; saw Dr. Davis and lawyer French come up in their uniform. They asked if we had given him any lobelia that day. I said I hadn't and didn't know if any one had. They went into the room, and I then saw them by the bedside, talking very loud, and apparently amused with what the patient said. Dr. Davis leaned his head across the patient. The patient said 'keep away,' says he, 'you smell so strong of BRANDY, you make me sick.' 'My dear!' says he, 'it's not brandy—it's GIN!' Patient said, 'Ulysses, you smell of Brandy.' Ulysses said, 'No, I have taken a little Gin.' Then, said the patient, 'You have taken enough to make you TIPSY!' I then left, and told them in the parlor, that Dr. D. and patient's brother were very much amused. Next saw him at 9: Dr. D. and brother were with him stroking down his face; saying they were making him a brace of whiskers." &c. Dr. Roleston testified in relation to what he saw of these transactions,—that their conduct made him "very angry—went into the parlor, and said, if it was my house, I'd kick them out of it! After they had been there some time, I found the patient completely ungovernable, and delirious. When they first came, he was in his proper mind, and decidedly better. I then found him on the floor, with his pantaloons on—they were persuading him to go to bed—he refused to go unless his brother went to bed with him—his brother undressed himself and went to bed with him!" (He did not long remain in bed with patient, as he left the house at 12.)—Miss Frost said to the chief actors in these scenes that their conduct "was enough to make the man crazy." Very near our own opinion. In justice to Dr. Frost, we must here say, that he did all that a gentleman would perhaps be justified in doing, by remonstrances and expostulations, to end these transactions. The effect of all these truly unfortunate occurrences, as will be naturally supposed, was not such as rendered the state of the patient, the most favorable; and we are informed accordingly, by the testimony, that on the next morning, (Tuesday,) he was afflicted with a violent pain in the head, which was soon succeeded by hemorrhage at the nose. About this time, Dr. Metcalf lent his aid to Dr. Frost. The bleeding amounted in quantity to between a pint and three pints; it was stopped about 4 or 5 P.M. We copy now from Dr. Roleston's testimony: "Lawyer French came in before we changed the clothes, and the blood and all struck him with horror. We told him of the bleeding. He said, 'why did you stop it—why didn't you let him bleed—it would do him good.' We told him he had bled enough already. We then changed his clothes—he said, 'I can walk myself.' He did walk to the other bed, lawyer F.

and myself on each side of him," &c. The patient was now unquestionably much debilitated, but we firmly believe if he had been kept quiet, he still would have recovered, under the Thomsonian treatment, carefully applied. But we have here to present the most unfortunate and revolting feature of the whole case—the treatment of the patient by Cheeseman—which, in our opinion, was alone sufficient to cause the death which followed it. We again copy from Miss Ray's testimony: She was called to fix patient's bed on Tuesday evening, soon after 6; as she left the room heard him say 'I am able to get into bed myself.' "Next time I saw him, (says she,) he was in bed, and said he felt better since his bed was changed. I left and stopped out for half an hour. The bell rung, and I let in Dr. Cheeseman and Mr. French. I opened the bed-room door half way; Dr. Cheeseman opened all the way, wide. Dr. C. went to the bedside and looked at him and said, 'I think he's too warm.' He took hold of the top comforter and threw it on one side—he then felt his pulse and I don't know whether he examined him any further or not. I next saw Dr. C. on the sidewalk with lawyer French—he said 'You knew that lobelia wouldn't do him; you knew that I would do better!' I was in the room about 15 minutes after, and Dr. C. and Dr. Smith came in; they went to the bedside and told him, very loud, to put out his tongue; he did so. Dr. Cheeseman put his hands to the clothes and took them all off from him down to near his feet. Dr. Smith then took his shirt off from him, and left his breast and chest all bare. Dr. Cheeseman turned round to where I stood, and said, 'Put out that fire!'—which I did, and put it all into the pan, and put the grate of the pan over it. During the time I was putting out the fire, Mr. French turned round from the bed, and said, 'That's not right! that's not right! I'm afraid that's not right.' Dr. Cheeseman then asked me for a table spoon. Lawyer French said—'Go for it, quick!' I brought it—Dr. C. took a vial off the mantel—pulled out the stopper—but I did not see him pour it out. He turned round from the bed and said, 'Let that window down!' I do not know who let the windows down, but they were down when I left the room. I saw Dr. C. put some calf's foot jelly to patient's mouth; he moved his mouth as if he chewed, but I cannot say whether he swallowed it. In a few minutes I saw him give him what he called 'beef's tea'—he swallowed it, as Dr. C. remarked. Dr. Cheeseman and Dr. Smith soon after that left the room. In a few minutes Dr. C. returned to the room and ordered me to take a bottle of warm water from the patient's feet, and I did so. Dr. C. then had the back and front windows opened. I left the room. Returned in three quarters of an hour, and saw the patient apparently chilled. I remained in the room 6 or 7 minutes, when the patient took convulsions, as I call it, fits, which remained on him till he died. This was about 10 o'clock.—I have been a nurse five years. There was more attention paid to that patient than I have ever known to any patient from first to last. I don't know that he was ever left more than five minutes alone at any time. As soon as Dr. Cheeseman came in, I put my hand on the patient's face; he was in a mild perspiration; not large drops as the

gentleman said; he apparently had no fever on him, as far as my skill went—he was very pale. The doors and windows were all thrown open while he was in that state. It was a cold, damp day—it was what I call a foggy, rainy kind of evening. It had rained a great part of the day. The room was made uncomfortable to those who were well, by the fire being put out, &c. It was not before this uncomfortably hot to a well person, I have taken what I call a heaping teaspoonful of lobelia, five times repeated, within the space of 45 minutes. There was only his shirt on deceased when Dr. Cheeseman took off ALL the bedclothes. He remained so 8 or 9 minutes.” &c.

We have thus given the most important facts in the case, so far as the death of the patient is concerned. The whole trial as given in the N. Y. Herald, (notwithstanding the ignorant prejudices of the reporter lead him to discredit as much as he conveniently can the defensive testimony,) tends to confirm us in the belief that the patient died in consequence of the treatment he received from Dr. Cheeseman. Our readers must judge for themselves.

The N. Y. Herald of the 19th remarks—“This trial still continues to excite immense interest. Yesterday, notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather, the court room was crammed. The case, from the testimony of Roleston, Miss Ray and Miss Frost, resolves itself into this:—Frost was killed by somebody. Who did kill him? Miss Frost says Drs. Cheeseman and Smith killed him by their treatment. Dr. Roleston says his brother and Dr. Davis killed him, by their conduct. Dr. Metcalf thinks he was killed by the brandy and water (of Cheeseman) and throwing the clothes off. Margaret Ray says he was killed half by one and half by the other. Whilst all the faculty say that Frost killed him! We shall see.”

This discrepancy in the testimony for the defence we conceive to be only apparent, or unimportant. It proves, by the way, that there was no collusion among the witnesses. They each testify as to the circumstances which they saw—and they were not either of them with the patient during the whole period of his sickness. In forming a judgement, the whole of the testimony should be considered. And therefore, although we think the Herald is right in considering that the patient was killed; it is not quite correct in the deductions its draw from the testimony individually considered. Neither of them pretends to say what killed the patient—but they merely state what they saw of the circumstances.

Since writing the above, we have seven or eight columns more of the testimony for the defence, including that of the prisoner's mother, which corroborates the evidence before noticed. The remainder is chiefly evidence in favor of lobelia and the Thomsonian system—which comes up with irresistible strength, and in a style which astonishes in no small degree those who are for the first time made sensible of its progress and its power.

PHYSICIANS AND PHYSIC.—“Physicians, in general, are a hale, hearty race of men, as, indeed, must be readily conceived from their prudent maxims in regard to the preservation of their own health;—they take no physic. No; they are too well acquainted with its tendency,” says Dr. Caustic.

OLD-SCHOOL SCRAPS—OR TID-BITS OF LEARNED IGNORANCE.—The work from which we shall here make a few choice extracts for the amusement and instruction of our readers, is the “Family Herbal” of Salmon—being “compilations of the specific action of plants on the human body, as observed by the most eminent physicians from Hippocrates to the reign of Queen Anne.” This work would perhaps be unworthy of particular notice, were it not for the fact, that, disgusted with the murderous practice of the present “regular system,” an attempt was recently made by persons in England to revive its authority. In the description of the “physical powers of plants,” we have, among others,

“*Digestives.*—These are such as concoct the food in the stomach, and are all naturally hot; for it is heat which causes concoction, and excites the natural fermentation in the stomach, by which a good chylus is made, in order to sanguification, and nourishment of the body. Yet some things may cause digestion which are not naturally hot, but cold, and may excite the natural heat by way of antiperistasis, [a compression on all sides; any other ‘hard word’ would do as well,] whereby the sulphureous particles in the stomach are more fermented and heated, or set a boiling.”

Fermented, heated, or set a boiling! We can couple this ridiculous idea of boiling in one's stomach, only with the representation in the Conic Almanac of the man who cured the tooth-ache by filling his mouth with water and sitting astride the grate until it boiled! Nothing else will so happily illustrate its absurdity. And although it would be difficult to crowd a greater quantity of nonsense in a smaller space, yet, this was once the scientific doctrine—to dispute which, was a great deal worse than murder, in the estimation of its supporters, and almost as bad as the crime of now administering lobelia! *Fermentation* may sometimes occur in the stomach, but not without more or less unnatural irritation or disease; it has nothing to do with the process of digestion, which, by the way, no man hath yet explained, nor can expect to explain, any sooner than he can explain the *modus operandi* of the creation of the world. *Concoction*, and *sulphureous particles of the stomach*, must rank under the same head—*arrant folly*. Those learned fools had strayed too far from the paths of common sense, to be willing to confess their ignorance of every thing in relation to vitality except its effects; and in their foolish frenzies, they fell down and worshipped the hypotheses which they themselves had set up, like heathen before their idols. But they, like the doctors of the present day, were *learned men*—to doubt the wisdom of whom, in all cases, is to subject oneself to the scorn of a deluded multitude. Again—

“*Narcotics.*—These are stupefying medicines, and ease pain, *not by mitigating it, but by stupefaction*; not by taking away the cause, but by *obstruction of the animal spirits* for the time. Yet stupor is something less than insensibility, or the deprivation of sense. They are also called *hypnotics* and *somnifics*, because they induce sleep. These being taken too liberally, or to excess, cause death, as all opiates if immoderately taken. They are to be administered at such times, when the *symptoms* are so grievous as to threaten a greater danger than the *disease*.”

To the above definition of the operation of opiates we have no objection—we think it, in fact, very correct, and to render it more striking we have put a few of the words in italic. Let the faculty be ever

so correct however, in the knowledge of the properties and ultimate effects of their poisons, yet when they speak of the philosophy of the curative application of those poisons, they develop their ignorance and folly in all its naked deformity. The last sentence is in perfect accordance with that hallucination which dictates the employment of deadly poisons in the cure of disease; but if narcotics were only administered when the *symptoms* of disease were more dangerous than *disease itself*, the *delirious* affections at least, of the patients of the faculty, would be far more seldom manifested than is now the case.

"Hysterics.—These are medicines appropriated to the womb; such as asafoetida, and other stinking things of like nature. Therefore since vapors, hysteric fits, and hysteric convulsions, proceed from the womb, those things which alleviate them, suppress the *fumes* and reduce the womb to its place, ease its pains and strengthen it. Convulsive motions are properly called hysterics; so musk, ambergrise, aromatics, applied to the nose, induce vapors, fits, convulsions, &c.; whereas, applied to the place of conception, suppress them all. But asafoetida and other stinking things, applied below, bring those diseases; whereas, held to the nose, or taken inwardly by the mouth, they frustrate and cure them." !!!

We cannot think that the majority of our readers will need any comments from us, to make them sensible of the philosophical elegance of this precious morceau of medical science! Its scintillations, like those of "rotten mackerel by moonlight," are by far too beautifully conspicuous not to attract the admiration of even the most stupid!—its sound philosophy being equalled only by the sweetness and the purity of the sentiments and the diction! It is such manifestations as this of the learning and science of the faculty, which must render nugatory all the charges raised against them by ignorant quacks!

"Emetics, or Vomitories.—These, by giving a reluctance to the nervous fibres of the stomach, cause their relaxation and stimulation; whereby afterwards, as the reluctance grows more and more, and the nauseousness increases, those nervous fibres before relaxed, suffer a kind of a convulsion, or contraction, and so eject the offending matter upwards, or by the mouth. Nor is the stomach otherwise to be cleansed; for ten cathartics, or purges, however strong, will not so well cleanse the ventricle, as one proper and well designed emetic."

After having waded through thirty or forty pages chiefly made up of mystified nonsense, the above appears like a ray of sunshine to the perplexed wanderer in some "Dedalian labyrinth." We think it very nearly correct in fact or in principle and theory, though the phraseology might perhaps be amended to advantage. We should not have copied it under the head affixed to this article, had it not been to finish the passages we had marked in the work, and also because we may hereafter have occasion to call attention to the paragraph again.

HARDHOCK.—This plant rises about two feet high, leaves heart shaped, on long foot stocks, flowers yellowish. The Indians call it *heal-all*, and they use it to cure wounds.

BLOOD ROOT, in powder, used as snuff, has cured polypus in the nose, after a surgical operation had been performed in vain.

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE.—*Principles of Pathology.*—Treatises on the theory and practice of physic, like the fashions of dress, are *continually changing*. That which was thought to be excellent at one time, is superseded, at the end of a bookseller's quarter day, by something claiming to be altogether superior. It is not always true that new principles are developed, or that new ideas are advanced, in this endless multiplication of books. Old doctrines are often presented in new, and under more favorable aspects; and the transposition of a sentence from its former abode between the leaves of a neglected folio of the last century, to a modern dress, is frequent, though rarely considered in any other light than advancing the interests of the profession.

The fact is, there are but a limited number of new things in our day, in the way of physic; but these are so often re-presented to the world, that it is by no means strange that some of them pass repeatedly and very currently for new discoveries. By this remark, however, there is no intention of undervaluing the "*Principles of Pathology*," by Doct. Mackintosh. On the contrary, it is a most desirable production, containing, within a moderate compass, the essence of all the elaborate works of the last fifty years.—[Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

These are pretty confessions, truly, to be made by the recognized organ of the self-sufficient medical faculty, who are eternally crying out against the *quackery* of those who possess some real knowledge in medicine. Will the people reflect on these things?

BURNT SECUNDINES were at one time in high request among the LEARNED, WISE, and SCIENTIFIC members of the *Regular (gold-headed-cane) Medical Faculty*—as a medicine!—(not for themselves of course, for they never take their own physic, but for their befooled and wretched patients.) Yea, these *erudite*, and never-enough-to-be-praised *professional* IDIOTS, not only considered this *delightful article* a most excellent medicine, but for some diseases, a "SOVEREIGN REMEDY"!!! If any doubt the truth of this, as well they might if unacquainted with the immeasurable folly of regular medical practice, they may relieve those doubts by referring to *Schroeder's Pharmacopœa*. And these are the men who revile their betters as "*Steam Doctors*."

"Diplomas, no, nor Colleges beside,
Can give the brains that God at first denied."

DR. THOMSON'S AGENTS.—On the 80th page of the Manual will be found a list of the authorized Agents for Dr. Thomson in New England—including all who have "signed the bond" that they will remain honest men. As new agencies are created, or old ones revoked, notice thereof will be published; and the list in full will be given in the Manual, at least once in three months. If the name of any person who has complied with the requisitions necessary to constitute him an agent, is omitted in the abovenamed list, he is requested to notify us immediately, and the omission shall be corrected. We believe, however, that the list is now correct.

FIRST PRINCIPLES.—There must be first principles in medicine as well as in philosophy, which are invariable and incontestable, and which, like the stars of the firmament in guiding the mariner; will conduct the physician, with assured aim, though the different stages of disease.

"Well done, in troth!
He has confess'd he stole my cloak,
And pick'd my fob, and what he took;
Which was the cause that made me bang him."

"WARD SEARS & CO." AND "E. LARRABEE."—As the matter in relation to the above individuals seems to be approaching a crisis, we consider it unnecessary to say much on the subject—as we believe that rogues will generally hang themselves fast enough, provided they have plenty of rope.

We must, however, express our astonishment that a few individuals, laying any claim to honor and honesty, should undertake to bolster up a man (in order to use him as a tool for their own base purposes) by such means as every impartial person must condemn, if we correctly apprehend the circumstances of the case. We allude to a scandalous pamphlet recently published by a band of Larrabee's coadjutors, defending that individual in using the name of Dr. S. Thomson, in order to palm on the public, articles of his or their compounding as "Thomsonian medicines," without Dr. T.'s authority or consent—most certainly an infringement on his moral, to say nothing of legal rights, and which he is every way justified in warning the public against. That these persons should attempt to extenuate their course by calling themselves a "society" is of no avail; on this principle, counterfeiters might always escape deserved opprobrium, by organizing themselves into bands big enough to bully "the timid" out of their birth-rights!

What appears most singular, however, is the fact, that while this band of "Thomsonian medicine makers" aver—

"Wi' awfu' oaths an' horrid front"—

that their agent prepares none but "PURE Thomsonian medicines," they in the same breath declare that the compounds as prepared by Dr. T. are "pernicious!" so that, according to their own showing, they are guilty of selling to the community "pernicious" medicines, or they LIE when they state their compounds to be "pure Thomsonian." They may hang on both horns of this dilemma, if they like!

The publisher of the Botanic Sentinel, we regret to notice, has seemed anxious to palliate Larrabee's conduct—but from the letter which we annex to this, it will be seen that it was without the consent of its editor.

This gang of trespassers, endeavor to deceive the public into the belief that the late Providence Convention was composed entirely of the pliant tools of Dr. Thomson. The Thomsonian public know too well to believe this, that the notice for that Convention was published months before it met, and that the invitation to attend was extended to all, both friends and foes. Of those who attended, many saw Dr. Thomson for the first time, and probably the last. And so far from being "tools" of Dr. T. one of the most prominent of the members (we say it with the deepest shame) has been detected on the eve of publishing a spurious edition (2500 copies) of the 'New Guide,'—which is not the only manifestation of depravity we could mention, and of which the editor of the R. I. Botanic Advertiser is aware—clearly showing, that though the convention embraced a large majority of hon-

orable men, who respected the just rights of Dr. T. there were still some knaves, and but few 'tools.'

In concluding this subject for the present, we request our friends at the South and West, who have purchased spurious Thomsonian medicines of Larrabee or his Company, to forward testimony thereof, (if they have not already done so,) either to Dr. Thomson, to M. Mattson, Esq. editor of the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel, or to G. Meyer & Co., Baltimore, Md.

Although not intended for publication, we submit the following:

Extract from a letter, dated
Mount Reserve P. O., Bedford co., Ten., }
December 4, 1837. }

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Dear Sir—Your system, I think, is about on a stand in this county: but the cause of this is, we have neither genuine medicines, nor practitioners,—if we had these, it would flourish. I would be glad if you could send me some of your own medicines, &c.

Yours, &c. WILLIAM PEPPER.

Extract from a letter, dated

Wadesborough, Anson co., N.C., Dec'r 6, 1837.

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

My dear Sir—Mr. Steele was in Boston some few months since to purchase machinery for a Cotton Factory, and called on you. You gave him a sample of your medicines, and we think that on comparison with the medicines which we receive from Larrabee in Baltimore, we see a difference, &c.

Yours, &c. I. S. L. TERRY & CO.

The annexed is the letter of Mr. Mattson—referred to above—

New York, December 16, 1837.

FRIEND COATES:—I perceive by the last number of the Botanic Sentinel that E. Larrabee has published a card in which he indirectly charges the members of the New England Thomsonian Convention with having "fabely and maliciously assailed his private character and his lawful business." As a member of that Convention, and in behalf of those with whom I was associated, I deem it my duty to state that the vote in relation to E. Larrabee was *unanimous*! It was clearly ascertained that said Larrabee had been in the habit of vending spurious medicines, and the members of the Convention considered it expedient to warn the public against such impositions. I also observe an article in the editorial columns in vindication of said Larrabee. I presume you gave this an insertion without due consideration. Your warm devotion to the Thomsonian cause has led me to this conclusion. Be this as it may, however, I wish the public to understand that said article is without my sanction. The medicines of E. Larrabee you say are recommended by an "honest and competent committee." This to me is unaccountable. E. Larrabee, it is well known, is a vender of secret nostrums. E. Larrabee has no agency from Dr. Thomson, and yet he makes use of his name to sell his medicines. E. Larrabee refused to pay to Dr. Thomson the \$500 for his trespasses which was awarded by a committee appointed by the Richmond Convention. Now I ask if any "honest" Thomsonian committee would sanction such conduct as this? By giving the above an insertion you will confer upon me a particular favor.

Very truly, M. MATTSON.

SINGULAR FACT.—It is stated as a singular fact, that if a plant is drooping or dying in a hot house, it is almost sure to recover, if a plant of camomile is placed near it. Try it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

NEW ORLEANS POISONERS—LYNCHING—THOMSONISM.

New Orleans, (La.) November 30, 1837.

DEAR BROTHER:

In a communication which I sent a few weeks since, I promised you should again hear from me, and I now embrace a few leisure moments to address you. Since my former letter was penned, I have learned that the *regulars* tried to "raise a breeze" the past summer against *Thomsonism*. A number of articles were published, of an inflammatory and scurrilous character, calling upon the citizens of New Orleans to *Lynch* the Thomsonian practitioner in this city—applying to him the usual epithets of "quack," "murderer," &c. &c.—although his only offence was that of *curing more patients than the "sons of science" could do!* As usual, however, they overshoot their mark; for so scandalous and absurd were their charges against Thomsonism and its advocates, that a gentleman of high standing and influence here, although not himself a Thomsonian, published a spirited article in reply to them, in the "N. O. Commercial Herald" of Oct. 4th, from which I make the following extracts.

The remarks are in reply to an article which appeared in the "True American" of Oct. 3d, and the writer assigns as his reasons for making them, that "to the disgrace of this city, we see a medical society without association—a medical body without a head—medical prescriptions without consistency, and medical experiments without philosophy to direct them; in short, when the medical practice of a community presents a chaotic confusion which would be disreputable to a class of mere students, no one can blame him who, in the anxiety and distress of the moment, goes over to empiricism and promises."

"I have been a looker-on—not an inactive one"—he continues, "during the reign of the *epidemic*, and have seen the mode of proceeding of some of the "*regulars*" of the town, and heard of, and noted down that of others; and I must observe, that I never witnessed such contradictions and inconsistencies as in those modes; in the treatment of a disease, too, of which they boast such an intimate knowledge, and such multiplied experience. I do not pretend to be skilled in the practice of physic myself, but I have long been in the habit of committing to paper any useful fact connected with any useful subject. In every house I have entered as friend or attendant, I grieve to say, one victim or more have fallen to the unchecked rigors of the disease, or to the ill-timed and injudicious application of remedies. One physician bleeds, cups and leeches terrifically; another will not bleed at all; another has recourse to potions and plasters; another to whiskey, or brandy, and ice; another to chloresote; another to calomel; another to ice inside; and another ice outside; another to iodine, and another to camphor! In the name of all that is merciful and scientific! are there not at this late date some certain data to act upon? Is the general character of the disease not well marked? Are there not (with an occasional exception) well known remedies to meet well known symptoms? Then why object to the *Thomsonians* and their lobelia and cayenne pepper? We hear of nothing else all the season but the unparalleled success of Doctor this;—and that Doctor t'other has not lost a patient. The "pall" gives the lie to these charlatanic assertions every

hour in the day. I say and *FEEL*, (for I have lost many valued friends) that the fatality has been shamefully extensive. The humbug of "type of the disease changed this season"—"unusually severe cases"—"uncontrollable character of the epidemic," should be exposed. Doctors non-Thomsonians! Doctors Regulars!—it is nothing but a frivolous excuse—a gossamer covering, for your want of skill, steadiness and discreteness in your practice. Yellow fever is yellow fever; and even suppose it alter its type; in the treatment of one or two hundred cases, which you assert you daily visit, surely you ought to have tact enough and philosophy enough to adapt your remedies to the change. No. If your patient dies, he was *frightened to death*,—he was seized with *something*, (heaven knows what,) which was never heard of or thought of before in the civilized world; or you were called in too late, or too early, or some other doctor had been prescribing something, which, whether he swallowed it or not, had killed him.

"Gentlemen! gentlemen!! Men of science! where is your liberality! Where your candor and integrity? Where your unerring experience?! Were I one of your body I should feel downcast at the houses of mourning now in this town. Tell me not of success, when, with the help of my own memory, that of a friend or two, and half a dozen newspapers, I can write down the names of nearly one hundred victims;—subjects, who were not the scum of the earth, cast down upon a heap of straw, to rot in poverty and neglect; but who were well nursed, and had the necessaries and comforts of life about them; and these form, I should suppose, about one fortieth part of the rich and poor who have been swept away this season.

"I doubt much whether the unlawful havoc attributed to the Thomsonians, can in any wise compare with these legal deaths. What opinion is the public to form of the prognosis, the powers of reasoning on causes and effects, the experience, the common sense, the honesty of men, who at one moment pronounce their patients convalescent, and the next give them up for lost; or who are so ignorant of the laws of animal life, so scheming, so distrustful of their own judgement, as to bruit about the town the certain demise of a patient, who two or three days after walks forth to sun himself in the open air. The *diagnosis* formed by these "licensed" prescribers is too ridiculous to glance at, as there is not one of the whole learned body who can at this fruitful season, recognize any other disease than yellow fever. But enough—let the shades of the departed spirits bear witness to the general truth of the above hasty sketch."

Here follows a list of ninety-two persons who had fallen victims to the regular practice—or *under* the regular practice, if you please—which list was hastily collected from the memory of the writer of the above—"that of a friend or two, and half a dozen newspapers"—though from the latter source not many names could be obtained, as it is not a very general practice to publish a record of the deaths and marriages which take place, as is done at the north. It would, of course, be of little if any advantage to publish this list in the Manual, therefore I have not transcribed it.

I have some other facts of interest to communicate, but this article is already so long that I fear it may not be read, and will defer them until I write again,

when I hope to have an opportunity of communicating some interesting information from the Thomsonian practitioner here. I will merely add, that my health is excellent—the weather charming, (thermometer at noon today 68 degrees in the shade, exposed to a current of air,) and the health of the city good—business of all kinds brisk, &c. &c.

Present my best regards to Doctor Thomson, and believe me yours, truly,

JEREMIAH CHAPMAN.

POISONOUS EFFECTS OF LOBELIA!

Springfield, December 11, 1837.

To Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON:

My dear Sir—I embrace this opportunity to forward you six dollars for seven copies of the Manual.

* * * * *

Thomsonism is slowly breaking down the prejudices of the old school in this place, and many begin to prefer a rational cure to a fashionable death—though some after they are cured are unwilling to pay for it—and the system must and will prevail.

It was with no small degree of astonishment that I read your notice of the New York case. That two learned professional men should at this day testify that lobelia possesses deadly poisonous properties, I cannot reconcile to their having any regard for the truth, even when under the solemnity of an oath.

I am satisfied there is no poison in it, by my own experience, an instance of which you shall know.

I was called, in May 1836, in the night, to see a man six miles distant, who, it was thought, could not live till morning. He had been sick two or three months, and was getting up. It had been thought he was in a decline. He had taken a chill, and had a severe relapse. I had not seen him before. Finding, notwithstanding his deathlike appearance, there was some action in the system, I concluded it was a case of chronic rheumatism. Pain in the right breast was extreme, with a spasm on his lungs which nearly prevented breathing at all. He could not bear to be moved in the least. The first thing you know was to *heat up*,—which was done by giving composition, with cayenne, and once in ten or fifteen minutes adding a small quantity of tincture of lobelia; also applied cloths dipped in hot water over the right shoulder and down the breast; and jug of hot water to the feet. In about an hour perspiration free—lungs relieved—pain abated. Continued this treatment eight hours—increasing the quantity of tincture (which was as strong as I can make). When the stomach became sickened, I had given one and a half ounces of tincture. I then gave four teaspoonsful more of tincture, which produced immediate puking—the most thorough operation I ever witnessed, and yet perfectly easy; it had but one operation, completely clearing the stomach. Followed up the hot medicine; in twelve hours patient could lie down perfectly easy; and soon fell into a quiet sleep. I left him, and the next time I saw him he came six miles to visit me.

My object in this case was to *get as much of this "poison" into his stomach as I possibly could*, by taking plenty of time and giving small doses; and I succeeded in getting down not less than four or five times the quantity necessary for a common operation. Now if lobelia is a poison, this man has been dead more than a year and a half. But not so,—he will soon visit your city as a Representative in the

General Court. As for Drs. *Cheese*man and *Rogers*, I consider them guilty of perjury the most malicious, and unworthy of the confidence of the community.

Yours, &c.

CALVIN SANDERSON.

To THOMAS JOHNSON, of Louisville, Ky.

and HIRAM PLATT, of Columbus, Ohio:

Gentlemen—I wish you would write to me immediately after the receipt of this, and state precisely in what manner the *Thomsonian Recorder* was got up; whether it was done by the funds of the Company or by those of individuals; and whether it was not done by my order or direction—and any other particulars necessary to a correct understanding of the case.

Yours, in haste.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, December 25, 1837.

FROST'S TRIAL.

Several different editions of this important trial will be published—some of them not the most impartial, probably. We are informed that Mr. Mattson, of the *Botanic Sentinel*, is engaged in making a full report of it, which our New York friends intend publishing,—the profits from which to go towards defraying the costs of the trial. A most excellent idea, which we hope our friends will bear in mind.

FROST CONDEMNED!—The Jury returned a verdict of Guilty with a recommendation to mercy!! His counsel moved for a new trial, on account of certain informalities. We have no room to say more.

CUTTING AN ARTERY.—Senator Preston, of S. Carolina, is said to be suffering from a serious inconvenience, which will incapacitate him from attending his legislative duties for some time.—While in Washington, during the extra session, feeling unwell, he requested a person to bleed him. The operation was performed, but instead of opening a vein, as is usual, the operator cut an artery. It is feared that the accident may cost Mr. Preston the loss of his. Many "accidents" of this kind have occurred in the practice of "regular" quacks, but as the subjects have not always been Senators in Congress, the accidents have attracted but little notice.

MEDICAL LAWS.—We have copied upon pages preceding, more evidence of the liberality, justice, and good sense of the "mighty west," in the remodelling of the medical laws of Michigan, and of the progress of medical revolution, which is indicated by this act. In South Carolina also, we learn that a bill for the repeal of these monuments of medical monopoly, in that state, has been reported in the legislature.

PUBLIC LECTURES.—We are authorized to state that Dr. Fonerden of this city, has made arrangements to devote his time this winter in delivering lectures on the Thomsonian system. After lecturing here he expects to make a trip to the South, so that our friends in the North, who may wish to secure his services, will do well to make early application. All letters addressed to him at No. 266 North-Third-street, post paid, will meet with attention.—[Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel.]

AGENTS FOR DR. SAMUEL THOMSON, IN THE NEW ENGLAND STATES.

☞ The public are cautioned against purchasing medicines under the name of "Thomsonian" from apothecaries or any persons whatsoever (in New England) not here named, or who may not be hereafter named in the Manual as the authorized agents of Dr. Thomson.

General Agents, { SAMUEL SMITH, }
{ JONAS W. CHAPMAN, } Boston, Mass.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Acton—Robert Chaffin,
Amesbury—A. Howarth,
Andover—J. Harding,
Ashburnham—A. L. Davis,
Ashby, { F. A. Kendall,
{ Mary Ann Stone,
{ Thomas Gibson,

Boston { William Clark,
{ John Sherburne,
{ William Johnson,
{ John Locke,

Brighton—D. Hart,
Dedham—J. Etheridge,

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Malden, { Benjamin Parker,
{ G. W. Colcord,
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Marblehead—Wm. T. Gerts,
Monroe—Cyrus Day,

Milford, { A. Scammell,
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New Bedford—J. Morgridge,
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North Blandford—L. Gibbs,
Newbury—{ J. Blood,
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Orleans—V. Sparrow,
Pelham—Whipple Cook,

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{ Moses Carter,

Russell—James Saunderson,
South Hadley { A. Clark,
{ E. Metcalf,

Stockbridge—J. Skinner,
Sturbridge—D. Mason,

S. Reading—C. Ball,
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Salem, { R. W. Merrill,
{ D. H. Sandborn,

Southboro'—C. L. Parker,
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Conway—J. C. Colby,
Croyden—Moses M. Jacobs,
Concord—Asa F. Bradley,
Dover—Andrew Watkins,
Goffstown—D. G. Dodge,
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Kingston—John Dearborn,
Meredith { Charles Morgan,
{ Wm. M. Ladd,

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Nashua, { G. E. Morrill,
{ J. Osgood,

Peterboro'—Wm. B. Kelley,
Somersworth—J. Jackson,

Sandown—Eliphalet Hunt,
Tamworth—Dan'l Leonard,

Tuftsboro'—E. Chapman,

MAINE.

Bangor—Isaac Jacobs,
Belfast—Daniel Sylvester,

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{ Thomas Annis,

Corinna—R. M. Ordeway,
Exeter—John Shaw.

Freedom—T. M. Moulton,
Goldsborough, N. Pendleton,

Hope, { D. H. Mansfield,
{ C. C. Pendleton,

Hallowell—Nicholas Smith,
Lincolntonville, { W. Moody,
{ J. H. Barrow,

N. Berwick—P. Hartwell,
Noblesboro'—M. Chapman,

Portland—Rev. C. D. French,
Plymouth—B. Hussey,

Searsmont—R. Ness,
Thomaston—Eben'r Small,

Unity—C. Woods,
Windsor—B. Clifford,

CONNECTICUT.

Canterbury—Sam'l Hibbard,
Enfield, { Hiram Stebbins,
{ Peter Parker,

Goshen, { Jesse W. Nichols,
{ George W. Riley,

Middletown—J. C. Stratton,
Woodstock—W. Goodsell.

THEY TELL ME SHE'S NO LONGER FAIR.

They tell me she's no longer fair,
That time has swept aside
The lustre of her youthful brow,
Her beauty's blooming pride—
But if her heart is still the same,
Still gentle as of yore,
Then is she beautiful to me—
More lovely than before.

They tell me that her cheek is pale
As is the twilight hour,
And that her eye hath lost its fire,
Her glance its former power;
But if her soul is still as chaste,
Still gentleness is there—
Then is her eye on me still bright,
Her cheek to me still fair.

For, oh! 'tis in the shrunken soul
Where beauty purely dwells,
Where virtue lives and truth exists,
Like pearls in ocean shells.
Give me a feeling, faithful heart,
Perfection's richest prize,
That is the temple of all love
Where beauty never dies.

Then say not she's no longer fair,
That time has swept aside
The lustre of her youthful brow,
Her beauty's blooming pride—
For if her heart is still the same,
Still gentle as of yore,
Then is she beautiful to me—
More lovely than before!

RESULT OF REGULAR PRACTICE.—“Dissections daily convince us of our ignorance of the seats of disorder, and cause us to blush at our prescriptions. What mischief have we not done under the belief of false facts, and false theories? We have assisted in multiplying diseases; we have done more—we have increased their mortality.”—[Dr. Rush.]

ORIGIN OF THE TERM QUACK.—Bartholomew Parr, M.D., in his eminent work says, “the appellation of *Quack* arose from *quacksalbar*, the German name for quicksilver; since on the first appearance of *lues* the irregular practitioners only employed this reputedly dangerous medicine.”

☞ Pure Thomsonian Medicines, prepared by Doctor Samuel Thomson himself, will be kept constantly for sale, at wholesale or retail, by JONAS W. CHAPMAN, (Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson,) at the New England General Depot, No. 40, Salem-street, Boston. Also—Family Rights and Robinson's Lectures.

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"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

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EXTRACTS FROM AN ESSAY ENTITLED THOUGHTS ON THE CHANGES AND THEIR CAUSES, WHICH ARE PERPETUALLY OC- CURRING IN MATERIAL CREATION.

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tice, in Transylvania University.

[Concluded from page 68.]

Shall I be asked, whence it is, that in the various mutations, which, in the economy of nature, matter sustains, the product is usually so exceedingly different from the substances out of which it is formed? I answer, I do not know.

I do know, however, that there are two processes in perpetual performance, by which the character of substances is essentially changed. These are *composition* and *decomposition*; the conversion of simples into compounds, and reduction of compounds into their elementary parts. By those who speak the language of observation, it will not be denied, that, in entering into composition, elementary substances lay aside the properties which they possessed, as simples; and that they resume them, as soon as the composition is dissolved. In sound philosophy this is recognized as a law of nature. It will be observed that, in speaking of *simples*, I use the common phraseology of the day, without vouching that the substances, so denominated, are simples. It is sufficient for my purpose that they are *comparatively* so; being more simple than the masses which they help to constitute.

Thus, when sulphur and oxygen unite in the formation of sulphuric acid, they both put off their specific characters. The compound contains neither real sulphur, nor real oxygen. The former has lost its combustibility, and the latter its capacity to sustain combustion, and support animal life. Decompose the acid, and its elements resume their properties, as simples. The sulphur is again combustible, and the oxygen respirable. * *

The same is true of a union of soda and sulphuric acid. Each ingredient, in uniting with the other, lays down its characteristic properties. Hence the compound is denominated a *neutral salt*—a substance whose very name indicates its destitution of the properties of the elements composing it. Decompose it, and the properties of its elementary ingredients are restored.

Of all compound substances, where a real union takes place between the elementary portions, the same is true. The simples resign their properties on entering into the union, and resume them as soon as the union is dissolved. This is one of nature's axioms.

Wherever, then, the processes of decomposition and recombination go on, with great activity and force, corresponding mutations in matter are the issue. This is true, whether the processes be under the influences of chemistry or vitality. In the latter case, however, the changes are most striking. In no instance does there occur an actual creation; a genuine production of something out of nothing. Yet

so extraordinary, at times, are the mutations effected, that they have been so denominated. At least they have been pronounced a positive generation.

Thus, in the work called "The Book of Nature," by the late Dr. Good, (see American edition, p. 149) we find, on the subject, the following paragraph.

"I have already had occasion to observe, that albumen and fibrine are substances formed by the action of the living principle out of the common materials of the food, and that it is probable the lime found in the bones and other parts is produced in the same manner. Whether the iron and sulphur that are traced in the blood have a similar origin, or exist in the different articles of our diet, and are merely separated from the other materials with which they are combined, is a physical problem that yet remains to be solved. It should be observed, however, that the sulphur does not exist in a free state in the blood, but is only a component part of its albumen. Considering the universality of these substances in the blood, and the uniformity of their proportions in similar ages, temperaments, and habits, whatever be the soil on which we reside; that those who live in a country in which those minerals are scarcely to be traced have no less, while those who live in a country that overflows with them, have not more, it is perhaps most rational to conclude, *that they are generated in the laboratory of the animal system itself by the all controlling influence of the living principle.*"

The same appears to have been the opinion of Dr. Marcett, when he found that chickens, on which he experimented, discharged, in their fæces, a greater amount of calcareous matter, than he could extract from the food on which they lived.

Of the truth of this I entertain not a doubt. The iron and sulphur found in the human blood are not only, by the influence of the vital principle, generated from alimentary matter, in which, as a part of it, their elements had existed, but are retained, by it, in a latent, informal, and inoperative state, united to some other substance, as long as the blood continues to circulate, a living fluid, in the vessels that contain it. They are then mere constituent parts of the fluid, possessing none of their peculiar and characteristic properties. Nor can they possibly be clothed in those properties, until the blood is drawn from the vascular system, and suffers decomposition, either as a consequence of its death, or by chemical agency. Then they appear in a formal condition, endowed with their specific and characteristic properties. Of other substances, found in the blood, the same would seem to be equally true. They are generated, by vital influence from their elements contained in alimentary matter. This is probably the case with phosphorus, ammonia, soda, and chlorine—all of which are said to be found in the blood. Indeed, as already mentioned, the entire mass of blood is as different from that out of which it is formed, as any one compound substance can be from another.

I am perfectly aware of the opposition, and perhaps denunciation, which I am to expect from chemists, for speaking of the *elements* of iron, sulphur, phosphorus, and chlorine. These, say they, are them-

selves elementary substances, and cannot, therefore, be composed of elements.

A few years ago they said the same of the alkalis. But time and research have convinced them of their mistake. Nor, as will appear hereafter, are they less deeply mistaken, in other hypotheses, respecting which their present confidence appears unbounded.

As relates to the real elements of matter, they know *nothing*. Nor is it, perhaps, possible they ever can. The study of *elements*, like that of *substances and entities*, appears to be transcendental. Man does not seem to have any intellectual faculty in unison with it.

Judging from the various substances contained in the composition of *air-fed* and *water-fed* plants and animals, and which are derived exclusively from their matter of nourishment, there is reason to believe, that chemists know as little of the positive elements of the atmosphere and of water, as they do of gold and platina.

What are elements to chemistry are not so to nature. This has been too often proved to be now held doubtful. Hence the impropriety of the confidence, with which chemists assert their dogmas, as to the number and character of material elements.

There is nothing of which they speak more dictatorially and positively, than of the composition of the atmosphere. Yet from many of the preceding facts and observations, it appears very clearly, that they know nothing about it. Nothing, I mean about its *real and radical elements*. And this view of the subject is still further confirmed, by another fact, which is worthy of our attention.

The aerolites, or meteoric stones, which occasionally descend among us from above, are now believed, not to be of lunar production, nor substances ejected from terrestrial volcanos, but to be formed, by concretion, in the upper regions of the atmosphere.

But those concretions consist of several substances, not one of which chemists have able to detect in atmospheric air.

Some of these masses, that have fallen from the heavens, are composed exclusively of two metals—iron and nikel. But they are formed generally by peculiar combinations of iron, nikel, silica, and magnesia; to which are occasionally added, small portions of sulphur and lime.

These substances, then, must exist, in the atmosphere, either *formally*, or in an elementary state.

But *formally* they cannot exist there, because they are fixed, and not volatile. By no operation, with which we are acquainted, can they be rendered aeriform and sufficiently light to float in the atmosphere. Out of the real constituents of the atmosphere, then, must they be generated, by one of those processes, which nature performs, but of which man is ignorant.

This fact alone, independently of others, that have been previously stated, should prevent chemists from speaking familiarly and confidently of the elements of matter, and of the composition of the atmosphere, as if they were really and intimately acquainted with them.

On the origin of the lime found in the bones and other parts of certain animals, a hypothesis is entertained which merits our attention. It is in the case of that extensive family of the feathered kingdom, that have a strong muscular stomach, lined with a dense and insensible membrane, and denominated a

gizzard. Our turkies and common domestic fowls are members of this family.

These animals are known to be in the habit of swallowing gravel, of which, if they are deprived, they become sickly, their eggs are not covered with firm shells, their bones sometimes perhaps deteriorate, and in a short time they die.

In explaining all this, the naturalist and physiologist finds no difficulty. Nor does the chemist either, in his own estimation. He sees it in evidence "clear as proof from holy writ," that the gravel which his chickens swallow, although he never examined it, is calcareous, and that from it alone, is derived the lime which enters into the composition of their eggshells and bones. Withhold from them their gravel, and you deprive them entirely of their source of lime. Hence their bones suffer, their eggs are covered by nothing but a membrane, and the poor things die of a malady called the *mopes*. Such is the moping account of the matter, which the chemist gravely communicates to the world.

An opinion more unspeakably silly than this, has never been believed in, by the silliest of men. There is not a notable housewife in the country, who vigilantly superintends the rearing of her poultry, who cannot correct it. And yet it is solemnly palmed on the public as *philosophy*, and defended with a zeal and dogged perseverance, which should be manifested only in a better cause.

True, our chickens and turkies swallow gravel—sometimes calcareous, sometimes argillaceous, and, at other times, silicious, according to the mineralogical character of the country where they subsist. And, provided it be hard enough, one kind suits them as well as another. But from neither do they derive a particle of nourishment, to be manufactured into bones, eggshells, or any other article. It is intended exclusively for the purposes of mastication. Our poultry cannot digest the corn, wheat, oats, and other hard grains they swallow, unless they be triturated. But they cannot triturate or break them with their bills. They, therefore, swallow gravel, with which, as with grinding teeth, their strong muscular stomachs, bruise and break to pieces the grain, after it has been sufficiently macerated in their crops. When deprived of gravel, and still fed on hard grain, their food is not digested. The consequence to them is precisely what it is to ourselves, under similar circumstances—gastric derangement, imperfect digestion, defective and vitiated secretions, disease of the whole system, and death.

Farmers know well the consequence of feeding an old horse, that has lost his teeth, on nothing but hard, unchopped corn. The grain passes through him undigested, he loses his flesh and strength, and ultimately sickens and dies. But he does not suffer for want of lime to form his bones; although he needs that substance as much as chickens. He dies from a general want of sustenance.

In the maritime districts of the Atlantic states, the poultry are as healthy, vigorous, and perfect, their bones as hard, and their eggshell as thick and firm, as in the valley of the Mississippi. Yet in the former region there is no calcareous gravel; and in that latter scarcely any other kind.

The eagle, the condor, the hawk, the kite, the common vulture, and other birds of prey, swallow no gravel of any sort. Yet have they sound health, bones of great strength, and perfect shells to their

eggs. Even the humming bird, that banquets on nectar, gives to its egg a calcareous covering, and has lime in its bones.

It is singular that some of our dreaming chemists do not push their absurdity so far as to contend, that birds swallow gravel corresponding in color to that of their eggs. It is as easy to secrete lime, without having swallowed it in a formal condition, as coloring matter. Fowls and birds, therefore, whose eggs are reddish or speckled, should swallow reddish or speckled gravel, those with white eggs, white gravel; with blue eggs, blue gravel; while such as have shells or bones, as is the case with some, of a very dark color, should be furnished with fragments of the black marble of Egypt, Italy, Ireland, or some other place.

Still further to baffle and expose the dreams of chemistry, on this subject, we are assured that from the body of the terebellum marmoreum, which as already mentioned, subsists exclusively on marble, no calcareous matter can be extracted.

Feed a turkey, or a common domestic fowl on meal or well chopped grain, giving it neither gravel, of any kind, nor lime, in any other form, and it will remain healthy, become fat, and have eggs, covered with shells.

Feed three fowls or turkeys on the same kind of hard grain, giving to one of them silicious gravel, to another argillaceous gravel, and to the third pulverized lime, without any gravel at all. The two first will digest their food well, and will be healthy and vigorous, while the last will have indigestion, and will sicken and die.

Were it necessary for our poultry to eat calcareous gravel, to procure lime, for the purposes of their economy, the same necessity would be imposed on ourselves, our domestic animals, and indeed on all animals that are possessed of bones. Lime is essential to us, to form our osseous system, as it is to our chickens to form their eggshells. But we procure a sufficiency of that material, without eating calcareous gravel, because we can masticate without it. And so can they, provided they masticate with gravel of any other kind.

Feathers, beaks, hair, horns, hoofs, and claws, are found, by analysis, to contain in their composition, a portion of ammonia. It is not, however, necessary, to cram our chickens, ducks, horses, cows, and cats, with boluses, or to drench them with potions of ammonia, to enable them to form those external defences and weapons of battle. Nor is it requisite for the musk ox to eat food containing musk, to enable him to secrete that substance from his blood.

Yet as well might chemists contend for these necessities, as for their silly hypothesis, respecting the lime in the bones and eggshells of our poultry. There is, indeed, no absurdity too gross for such visionaries to embrace.

Between the nature of the substances, then, that are found in the fluids and solids of vegetables and animals, and that of the substances on which they subsist, there exists necessarily, as previously stated, no identity. On the contrary, they are always marked by a very striking difference. Nor is there any necessary similitude between a secreted fluid, and the blood from which it is formed.

Vegetables, I repeat, that spring from a calcareous, a chalybeate, or a silicious soil, afford, on analysis, no greater proportion of lime, iron, or silex, than

those which grow in situations of the most opposite character. Plants that subsist exclusively on air and water, consist, as already mentioned, of the same elementary ingredients with those that derive their nourishment from the earth. The solid and fluid portions of herbivorous and carnivorous animals consist of nearly the same constituent elements, notwithstanding the different fare on which they subsist; nor, in this respect, do the aquatic and dry-land races materially differ.

In the blood that flows through the emulgent arteries there is no more of urea or the lithic acid, than there is in that which nourishes the brain; nor is there any difference between the blood from which saliva, and that from which the humors of the eye are secreted. In the former there is no salivary, nor in the latter any vitreous crystalline matter.

Such are a few of the changes, which are daily occurring in the magnificent pageant of material creation, under the influence of mechanical, chemical, and vital principles. Enough, I trust, has been said, to show, that those three sets of principles and their laws, are essentially distinct from each other; and that they operate, each set exclusively in its own sphere, without any mutual mixture or interference. The two remaining vital processes of absorption and intellection, on which time will not permit me, at present, to dwell, shall constitute a theme of future discussion.

[INSTANCES OF SCIENTIFIC FOLLY.]

A few remarks on the practical mischief of what is denominated "chemical pathology" shall close this article.

Were the advocates of that absurd notion to confine their visions to paper and conversation, they might, in common with other follies, afford matter of amusement. But, when they carry them into the chambers of the sick, they become grievous and alarming instruments of evil. *They have produced more individual suffering, and destroyed more lives, than the sword, the musket, and the bayonet combined.* The hypothesis, and the practice growing out of it, have assumed, successively, the following shapes.

At one time, fever, scurvy, dysentery, and other complaints, consisted in a general *putrefaction* of the fluids of the body. For this imaginary condition of things, the remedies administered within and without, were *antiseptics*—many of them as unfit and pernicious articles, as man could imagine. *This form of practice has destroyed its millions.*

The same complaints consisted at another time, in a general *alkalescency* of the fluids. The practice now, was to drench the patient with various acids, vegetable, and mineral, as long as he could swallow; and then to inundate him with them externally, until he ceased to breathe. *This was often a most destructive practice.*

Again, the diseases arose from an *acidity* of the fluids; and, to remove that, the sufferers were dosed and irritated, by acrid and nauseous *alkalis* within, and excoriated by them without, until, instead of their original disease, **THEY DIED OF THE IGNORANCE AND TEMERITY OF THE DOCTOR.**

[Dr. C. might here have introduced another notion of the learned chemico-pathologists, which represented all morbid affections as the product of a vitiated condition of the blood, that condition being the result of a chemical process, occasioned by contagion, or

some other poison received from without. The mass of morbid matter thus produced, could be removed from the blood, only by powerful cathartics. Hence arose a course of drastic purging, in all cases, which it was in innumerable instances impossible for the human constitution to withstand—the treatment being far more destructive than the diseases in which it was employed.]

Some maladies were pronounced to be the offspring of a *deoxygenated* condition of the system. To remedy this morbid state of things, those unfortunately subject to it, or rather to the *supposition* of it, were compelled to swallow, to their great annoyance, and *not unfrequently their destruction*, huge and repeated doses of *nitre*, because that salt contains, in its composition, an abundance of oxygen. They often drank vinegar and even sulphuric acid, in large quantities, for the same reason.

In the perverted fancy of a certain distinguished chemical pathologist and his followers, pulmonary consumption was the result of a *hyperoxygenated* condition of the lungs. To cure this, their patients were lodged in cow-houses and stables, bathed in the reeking humidity, and suffocated by the stench of those repositories of nastiness, under the whimsical belief, that their atmospheres, containing a diminished proportion of pure air, would deoxygenate the lungs, and restore health. The farce was acted in England, not only within my own recollection, but by a physician, of no ordinary talents and fame, with whom I was several years in correspondence.

Some diseases, arising from an excessive *thinness* of the fluids, were to be cured by *insipissants*; and others, depending on a *laxity* of the solids, were to be removed by *astringents* and *tonics*. The latter notion and practice, present a ludicrous mixture of chemistry and mechanics.

Not many years ago, some of the chemists of France, in analyzing certain portions of the bodies of those who had died of bilious fever, discovered in them, or imagined they discovered, a deficiency of *gelatine*. This deficiency was immediately pronounced the *cause* of the disease. The effect was electric. The report and belief of it spread far and wide, with nothing less than French rapidity. The consequence to the confectioners of the country was highly profitable, and to the poor calves no less disastrous. The latter were slain, in thousands, to furnish the former with the requisite materials to prepare gelatine, (vulgarly, calves-foot jelly,) as a sovereign remedy for every modification of bilious fever. Instead of carrying along with him, therefore, a well supplied magazine of tartar emetic, quinine, cinchonine, and cornine, every country practitioner armed himself, now, with jars and gallipots of gelatine, and resolutely poured it into the stomachs of his patients. Nor was he a little astonished, when those uncivil and refractory organs poured it back again, without sending the disorder packing along with it. The effect of such folly, in augmenting disease and suffering, and in destroying life, need not be represented. To every skilful practitioner of medicine, it will appear in relief sufficiently bold. It tended, moreover, to the disgrace of the profession.

Even the practice of surgery is not free from the fooleries of chemistry.

Does a wound or an ulcer show a disposition to sloughing or mortification? The part is immediately enveloped in some famed antiseptic poultice, or

kept constantly dripping with an antiseptic lotion. On this puny and miserable local practice the surgeon relies, to the *entire neglect of constitutional remedies*, which are alone competent to the removal of the complaint. But the follies and evils of chemical pathology are too numerous to be all recited. They would fill volumes.

To conclude then. As the source of Pharmacy, chemistry is essential to the profession of medicine. But in no other respect. [We deny the utility of its application even here, as a general principle.—ED. MAN.] As often as it has made its way into physiology, pathology, or practice, it has spread around itself *ERROR, SUFFERING, and DEATH*. The exceptions to this are so few, as to do no violence to the general rule. They relate chiefly, if not entirely, to noxious agents lodged in the stomach.

From the matter contained, and the sentiments expressed, in this paper, let it not be imagined that I am a foe to chemistry. No opinion could be more unfounded. I am an admirer of the science, and deem it equally interesting and important.

But I admire it only when it is kept within its proper sphere. There alone is it either interesting or useful. When pushed beyond that, and obtruded into another sphere, for which it has neither affinity nor fitness, it loses, at once, its attractiveness and value, and becomes offensive and mischievous.

Confine it to dead matter, and I am its friend and advocate. But I am hostile to all attempts to introduce it into the economy of living matter; because I conscientiously believe that such attempts are founded in error, and productive of evil.

NOTE.—To prevent misconceptions of my meaning, in several passages of this paper, where I have been compelled, for the sake of avoiding too much prolixity, to speak in general terms, a very brief exposition seems to be requisite.—I am aware that in the performance of many of the functions and processes of the body, principles purely mechanical are in constant operation.

In effecting the circulation of the blood, the heart, as I have elsewhere observed, acts as both a forcing and a suction pump. Locomotion generally, as well as the admission of air into the lungs, and its expulsion from them, in respiration, is performed on mechanical principles. So are speaking, chewing, swallowing, and the peristaltic motion of the stomach and intestines. The blood also obeys, to a certain extent, the influence of gravitation.—But in all these instances, and in every other that can be adduced, the mechanical process, although subservient to the vital, is entirely distinct from it. They do not in the slightest degree interfere with each other. The one simply commands, and the other during health, implicitly obeys, each occupying its own rank and station. Vitality furnishes the springs of action, and mechanics the apparatus. But mechanics can have no agency in giving the spring, nor vitality in the form and arrangement of the instruments. Although, therefore, the two sets of principles are essentially distinct from each other, there is no such incompatibility between them, as to prevent them from being concerned in the same function, as principal and subordinate. Perhaps the chief reason of this may be found in the fact, that mechanics are concerned with *masses* of compound matter, and vitality with its *elements*.—But, between chemistry and vitality, no such compatibility exists. They both act on and with matter, in an elementary state. Being essentially different in their principles, therefore, they cannot act together. The presence of the one is compatible only with the absence of the other. Admitted into the same process, they would necessarily clash, obstruct each other's movements, and produce confusion.

MEDICAL FEES.—The Chinese proceed on the principle of “no cure no pay;” the termination of the case, therefore, decides the fee, except in court practice, where a very effectual method is taken of stimulating professional skill, by stopping the salary during royal indisposition.

In Portugal, it is no uncommon thing to pay the doctor by presenting him his own portrait.

The following are some of the most ancient fees on record:—

Eristratus had 60,000 crowns from Seleucus for discovering the disorder of his son Antiochus.

Aleon, celebrated by Martial for his dexterity in curing hernias, was no less nobly remunerated by the public, who repaid him, in the course of a few years practice, ten millions of sesterces, which he had lost by a law-suit.

Aruntius, Calpetanus, Rubrius, and Albutius, for their attendance on the Emperor Augustus, and his two immediate successors, had each an annual salary of 250,000 sesterces, equal to £2,000 sterling.

Petrus Apenensis, a physician of Padua, in the 13th century, we find refusing to go out of the town to see a patient under £6 a day. When sent for to Pope Honorarius the Fourth, he demanded 400 ducats a day.

The mode and manner of remunerating medical service in the early periods of Great Britain, we may learn from the following items:—

1345 Edward III. granted a pension of sixpence per day to his apothecary, Coursus de Gungelund.

In the courts of the Kings of Wales, the physician or surgeon was the twelfth person in rank, and appears to have had by law certain established fees. For curing a flesh wound that was not dangerous, he was allowed no other perquisite than such of the garments of the wounded persons as were stained with blood; but for curing any of the three dangerous or mortal wounds, he was allowed a fee of 180 pence, and his maintenance, besides the blood-stained garments.

Among the expenses of the Earl of Cumberland in the 17th year of Henry VIII. we have—“Item, in a reward paid by my Lord to a physician of Cambridge, the 17th of June, £1. Item, to a physician at Westminster, for seying my Lord’s water, iv, d.”

In Burns’s “History of Westmoreland,” vol. i. p. 99, is a curious indenture between Sir Walter Strickland and a Doctor of Physic, who was to have £20. to cure him of an asthma. 18th year of Henry VIII.

Stow says—“The great grievance here is, that the inferior people are undone by the exorbitance of their fees. Half-a-crown is looked upon as a great fee in Holland: a physician scorns to touch any metal but gold with us, and our surgeons are still more unreasonable.” (Stow, vol. ii. p. 558.)

Baron Dimsdale, for his inoculation of the Empress of Russia and her son, was made a Baron of the Empire, with a present of £12,000, and a pension of £500 per annum.

In a book called ‘Levamen Infirmi,’ the usual fees to physicians and chirurgeons at that time (1700) are thus stated—“To a graduate in physic, his due is about ten shillings, although he commonly expects or demands twenty. Those that are only licensed physicians, their due is no more than 6s.

8d., though they commonly demand ten shillings. A surgeon’s fee is twelve pence a mile, be his journey far or near, ten groats to set a bone broken or out of joint, and for letting blood one shilling; the cutting off a limb is £5, but there is no settled price for the cure.”

In modern times (1737) we find the physicians who attended Queen Caroline had 500 guineas, and the surgeons 300 guineas each.

Dr. Willis, for his attendance on George the Third, was rewarded by £1,500 per annum for twenty years, and £650 per annum to his son for life. The other physicians 30 guineas each visit to Windsor, and 10 guineas each visit to Kew.

The late Mr. Martin, the surgeon, sometimes went to Dr. Meyer Schomber’s, who was much resorted to. Martin was shown in to him one morning while he had a patient with him: when the patient was gone, Martin observed two guineas lying upon the table; he asked the doctor how he happened to leave his money about in that manner? “I always had a couple of guineas before me,” said the Doctor, “as an example or broad hint what they ought to give.”

MERCURY AS A REMEDY.—[*Observations of Prof. Waterhouse.*]—“The regular physician finds it necessary sometimes to make a *great change* in the human frame, or to make a very strong *counter irritation*, so as to obliterate the *morbid or destructive* one. This they accomplish by *quicksilver*, that is, *mercury*, in its various preparations. This, when pushed to a *salivation*, dilapidates, if we may speak so,—or dissolves the human fluids, all of which are made up of globules, or round particles, on the *crasis* [healthy mixture] of which depends the vital integrity of our bodies, and of course our health and vigor. After the hazardous process of salivation, the physician may, perhaps, be able to say—*now I have so far changed the morbid state of the patient, that his disease is conquered, and entirely overcome by the powerful operation of the mercury.* But then in what condition does he find the sufferer?—His teeth are loosened, his joints are weakened, his healthy countenance is impaired, his voice is more feeble, and he is more susceptible of cold, and a damp state of the weather. His original disorder is, be sure, overcome, but it is paying a great price for it. *Secret history conceals from public notice innumerable victims of this sort.*”

DROWNING.—A Dr. Goodwin, wishing to ascertain whether death by drowning caused much suffering, related to a friend an experiment he tried on himself, (quite contrary to the usual custom of the ‘doctors,’) on this point. ‘Fearing I should struggle,’ said the Dr. ‘I had weights attached to my arms and legs, and so went down; yet struggle I did, and for some time, too; at first considering the experiment all the while a very foolish trick. I then went off, rather pleasantly into a kind of swoon, and thought and felt no more; but my greatest pain, was the inflating my lungs, in order to recover me.’

Important lessons may be conveyed even in three lines. Keep out of debt if possible—but at any rate keep clear of the (poison) “doctor.”

GIN VERSUS "SCIENCE"—Or, *How a man, by drinking a glass of Gin, accidentally found out what the wise Doctors had in vain puzzled their noddles to discover!*—We copy the following from Whitlaw's book, in relation to the "Plague" of 1811—12, not because we think him entitled to so much credit as he claims for the discovery, which was entirely accidental, and which but for drinking gin he would not have found out—but because it "shows up" in its proper colors, the assinine folly of the professional big-wigs—which, till they learn to treat their betters with civility, we mean to exhibit to the people, on every occasion which offers itself.—[ED. MAN.]

"In 1811 and 1812, a great number of lives were lost from the spurred rye being used as food, and the liquor distilled from the rye. The great mortality was chiefly confined to New York and Vermont. Upwards of twenty thousand victims fell a sacrifice to the ravages produced by that dreadful poison. Meeting after meeting of the faculty took place, to endeavour to discover the cause; and after the most mature deliberation, it was discovered by Dr. Hosack and his party, that it was a poisonous miasma floating in the air, confined to certain prescribed limits, and affecting certain persons, more particularly those that were in the habit of drinking gin:—the best apology for either ignorance of the true cause—the ergot or spurred rye. What made their report the more ridiculous was, that there was at the time a fine, clear, black, hard frost, and the healthiest weather that could be imagined. Many of the members were sceptical, and could not believe the report: they thought, that owing to the fine weather, it was impossible for contagion to exist in the air: others were of the same opinion with the doctors. One of the non-contagionists wrote and requested me to go to Albany, where the disorder was raging, and wished me to endeavor to discover the cause of the afflicting calamity. On my journey from New York to Albany, where the legislature of the state was sitting, I stopt at a place called Kinderhook, and being cold, contrary to my usual practice, I drank a glass of gin. I had not drank it many minutes before it affected me as if I had taken something boiling hot into my stomach. Although I immediately took an emetic, which produced the most active effects, the poison had taken so firm a hold of my constitution, that my throat and rectum were extremely painful. I had a cold perspiration towards the morning, with a pain in my bones and head, whereas I was in perfect health before I drank the gin. I accused the tavernkeeper of putting poison in the gin: a gentleman of the town who heard me, and had observed that the habitual gin drinkers in the place had died, seconded me in my charge. The landlord declared he was innocent, and referred us to the distillery. Upon our applying, the distiller was much alarmed at our charge of his putting poison in the gin; and added, it would be his ruin if the report got abroad, in consequence of the great mortality. He took a voluntary oath, and assured us that he put nothing but the pure grain in the gin, and invited us to see the grain in the still-house loft. We found it, on inspection, badly cleaned, and probably one-tenth of it spurred rye, or rye vitiated by being infested with the clavus or

ergot. I was quite astonished when I saw it, particularly as it was so well described by Dr. Darwin, as being a pestilential scourge in various parts of Europe, producing what is called by Dr. Mason Good, in his history of medicine, mildew mortification: in America it was vulgarly called the dry rot.

"I lost no time in repairing to Albany. On my arrival, the inhabitants were in mourning, on account of the loss of their relatives and friends, some of whom had risen in health in the morning, had eaten a hearty breakfast, and at noon were in eternity!! Such were the rapid effects of that inflammation, which was ascribed by the Doctors of New York, to the air of Albany being charged with the damps of death. The members of the Assembly of the State had at that time under consideration, a resolution to enable them to remove the State legislature from Albany: it was expected that the resolution would be carried the same night. To a friend I communicated the glad tidings of having discovered the cause of the disorder. He immediately ran to the assembly room, and obtained the members' consent to adjourn the question until the following morning. The tavern where I was was soon crowded by the members and citizens, all anxious to know the cause. It was no sooner communicated, with a detail of my own sufferings, than the members searched the book shops and libraries, and found, to their great satisfaction,(!) that the ergot was capable of committing the ravages upon mankind that I had represented to them. One of the sceptical of the *faculty*,(!) on being requested to analyze the article, and report on the subject, took a few of his acquaintances some distance into the country to dine on his father's farm, where an opportunity offered to prove whether the ergot was injurious or not, for a quantity of it that had been separated from the rye was given to the pigs; and from its fatal effects (as it caused their death the next day,) the father became a convert to the opinion. A number of rats, cats, and dogs, also fell sacrifices to its effects before the sceptical were convinced. Its poisonous powers operate so powerfully, that a few grains of it will cause abortion; and it is now no uncommon thing to administer it to facilitate childbirth, (with the *faculty*): this it will do in one hour after it is taken—almost always to the fatal injury of the child, though contributing to the ease of a lazy and money-making [and *villainous*] accoucheur. I have often been called to witness the severe sufferings of children after their birth, occasioned by the effects of the poison upon them. There can be no doubt as to the ergot affecting children under such circumstances; even if it did not, the unnatural efforts of the mother are sufficient to produce bleeding at the mouth, nose and ears; and convulsions, and even death, from the milk taken at the breast. Provided the children survive, the effect of the poison is seen in their eyes.—The *lolium temulentum*, a species of rye-grass, is often affected by the ergot; and when accidentally eaten by horses, it is sure to kill them."

ANATOMICAL KNOWLEDGE.—A friend one day said to the celebrated physician and anatomist, Petit—"With your anatomical knowledge you ought to cure all complaints." "That is true," answered the doctor; but, unfortunately, we are like the porters, well acquainted with the streets, but totally ignorant of what passes within the houses." Full as much truth as wit!

ADDRESS OF EARL STANHOPE, *President of the Medico-Botanical Society, for the Anniversary Meeting, January 16, 1837. London.*" &c.

The above is the title of a pamphlet of 32 pages, sent to Dr. Thomson, through the post-office, but from whence or whom, is more than we know. We have, however, taken pains to read the address of his Lordship, Earl Stanhope, and before we conclude will tell him, in short metre, what we think of it.

This Medico-Botanical Society we have reason to believe owes its existence to the Mr. Whitlaw, from whose book we have made extracts. The virtues of the vapor bath have thus enabled a man whose principal characteristic is impudence, to make some noise in the world—but his immortality will be short.

This Society, which embraces, according to his Lordship's address, many "distinguished and revered members of the profession," does not aim, as we do, at an entire revolution in medical practice, but only to a resuscitation of the exploded notions of Salmon and others, (which we noticed under the head of "Old School Scraps," in our last number,) together such other knowledge as they may be able to collect. Curbed in their efforts by old school superstitions, they flounder in the slough of medical doubts and sillinesses, to a degree laughable enough.

For instance—his lordship tells us that "his learned and revered friend, the President of the Royal College of Physicians," has favored the society with an account of the discovery, at Venezuela, of a plant called by the natives *Cuichunchulli*—to be used in *Elephantiasis tuberculata*, a disease almost or entirely unknown in Europe! It is deeply to be regretted, says his lordship, that its extreme scarcity has thus far prevented a full and satisfactory trial of its efficacy! The Medical Board of Venezuela considers it "very probable that it will effect a cure in some cases," though "more than two months elapsed generally before any sensible effects were visible"! but "Dr. Arvelo expresses a *contrary* opinion, and the question cannot be decided until medical practitioners are furnished with an ample supply of this plant which ought to be cultivated for that purpose"! Several pages are occupied by observations equally sagacious and remarkable, but as we have little room to spare for knowledge merely guessed at, we shall pass to the 22d page, for the purpose of copying some new observations upon "Odors."

"A subject of extreme curiosity and also of medical importance, (says his lordship,) but which hitherto has not been sufficiently examined, has been brought under our notice by my learned friend, Dr. Sigmond, whose merits and services are eminently entitled to our respect and gratitude. The paper to which I refer relates to Odors, many of which must be considered to possess a therapeutical agency, and such was the doctrine of some of the ancient physicians. A very remarkable instance of their operation is mentioned by Dr. Sigmond, in his excellent Lectures on *Materia Medica* and *Therapeutics*, which are now in course of publication. It is that, and I quote his own words, 'of a couple of well-behaved married people, who had always lived upon the most affectionate terms, and with good conjugal feelings one for the other, almost a pattern of conjugal happiness; but it was observed, that when this amiable couple had spent some time in a particular room in the house, they became engaged in a most violent quarrel, though every where else they

were fond and well-behaved. The room was considered enchanted; but after some time the mystery was dissolved, by the discovery that those terrible disputes were owing to a quantity of Hyoscyamus placed near a stove, and as soon as it was removed perfect harmony was restored.' What makes this the more difficult to explain (continues the learned and noble Earl) is the fact that the Hyoscyamus (Henbane), from its narcotic qualities, might have been expected to have an anodyne, not an irritating, effect."

We beg the reader not to suppose we are trifling with his patience. These are unexaggerated and true extracts from the bona-fide pamphlet, the title of which we have given. We confess, however, that it will require a considerable degree of credulity, to satisfy the reader that such stuff as that quoted, is put forth in the capital of the world, as the results of the most profound inquiry, and the deepest research, into the incomprehensible mysteries of medical science! But such indeed is the fact; and it seems to us impossible that the raving fancies of Bedlam itself can rival their utter ridiculousness.

As for opinion of his lordship, Earl Stanhope—we reserve it for the present.

DOCTORAL SILLINESSES.—Soranus was contemporary with Galen, and wrote the life of Hippocrates. Well! what of that? Why some very wise personages take the liberty to laugh at poor Soranus, whom we suppose to be a *Boswellian* sort of chap, for this reason, to wit. Having told us that honey proved an easy remedy for aphthæ, thrush, or sore mouth, in children, (which no doubt is true, though not so good as a tea of raspberry leaves,) like the more modern masters in medicine, he proceeds to let us into the wonderful philosophy of its curative properties. He does this in *regular, scientific* style. Instead of at once referring its good effects to the healing virtues of the honey, as your common numb-heads would, he gravely attributes them to the honey having been taken from bees that hived near the tomb of Hippocrates! But if an error so trifling as this of old Soranus will excite the risible muscles of the fathers, what convulsive fits of scornful laughter will follow from their children, when they are amused with stories of that *school*, called "Mechanical Physicians," who attempted to adjust the doses of medicines according to the constitution, by a *mathematical rule*! thus they say, or said, "*the doses are as the squares of the constitution.*" And in the "Edinburgh Medical Essays," there is actually a formal attempt to correct the errors of this rule! See "An Essay towards ascertaining the doses of vomiting and purging medicines, by Dr. Charles Balmguy, physician at Peterborough." But, after all, are these follies more ridiculous than those of existing 'regular' medical practice? Nothing but their strangeness makes us think so. And if we had not been so long accustomed, without the least inquiry, to tamely submit to the absurd treatment of the faculty, we should tremble at the very thought of putting the lives of our children, wives, or selves, at the cruel mercies of their bleeding, blistering, and poisoning.

THE QUACK'S MOTTO.

"Some fall by laudanum, and some by steel,
And death in ambush lies in every pill;
For save, or slay, this privilege we claim,
Though credit suffers, the reward 's the same."

DR. FROST'S TRIAL.—A letter from New York informs us that an accurate report of Dr. Frost's trial, together with the able and eloquent speeches of John A. Morrill and David Paul Brown, Esqrs., will shortly be published, in pamphlet form, by a committee of Thomsonians. The pamphlet will also contain:—1. Strictures upon the testimony of the *mineral doctors* who took part in the prosecution, with a history of their *disgraceful* conduct during the trial. 2. Some remarks upon the *grossly indelicate* and *one-sided* charge of Recorder Riker. 3. An affidavit which will exhibit the character of Dr. Cheeseman, the *note-shaver*, in its true light, and expose his trickery and baseness. 4. Affidavits also of highly respectable individuals proving that *two of the Jurors* were resolved upon the conviction of Dr. Frost, entirely regardless of their *oaths* or the *testimony*. 5. Some notice of Mr. Griffin, the *volunteer on both sides*, who assisted Mr. Phoenix in the prosecution. 6. A *Black List*, being an enumeration of cases which were *poisoned* or otherwise *destroyed* by the *mineral doctors* without any "notification of the coroner." 7. A history of numerous cases which were pronounced incurable by the medical faculty, and afterwards restored to health by the Thomsonian treatment. 8. Letters of the celebrated Waterhouse, professor of the theory and practice of medicine in the Cambridge University, on the Thomsonian system,—to which will be added other matters of interest and importance. The pamphlet may be procured, wholesale and retail, at the Manual office, immediately upon its publication—due notice of which will be given.

We have but few particulars in addition to those stated in our last, in relation to the trial of Dr. Frost. The verdict of Guilty, it seems, was not much worse than one of acquittal, for the Dr. was only fined ten dollars, and we believe the court is deliberating on the expediency of forgiving him even that! One would imagine manslaughter a very slight crime in New York! What a burlesque is all this!

Dr. Frost is at liberty, and we shall probably ascertain by our next number, whether or not a new trial will be had. If there should not, we would advise Cheeseman to pay the fine for Dr. Frost, and hush up the matter as much as he can.

A PARALLEL CASE.—It is stated in the New York Sun that "a young woman in the family of Doctor Dodge, recently put a period to her existence. She was ill of typhus fever, attended with delirium, and had two female friends watching with her. Her watchers fell asleep; she got from her bed and left the room. When they awoke an alarm was raised, and after an unsuccessful search for her through the house, her corpse was found floating in the cistern." We should like to know if the coroner has been notified of this affair, and if Dr. Dodge has been indicted for "manslaughter," for permitting the person to die on his premises? So far as Dr. D. is concerned, the case is parallel with that for which Dr. Frost was tried as a felon. Where is Cheeseman, that he has not *informed* against him? Is it because Dr. Dodge is a "regular," that Cheeseman is so remiss in "his duty?"—or is it because he has already attained, in that line, "glory enough?" His name shall "stink in the nostrils of posterity!"

The Geologists of Great Britain have come to the conclusion that this earth was once a globe of fire!

PROGRESS OF REFORM!

When the newspaper press, uninfluenced by party interest, begins to speak of *any* new or strange opinion, which has been previously a subject of ridicule, with the least show of respect, it at least argues that the subject, whether in principle right or wrong, is *too strong* to be longer laughed at. We do not mean to insinuate that this altered tone is always caused by mercenary motives—especially it is not so with the press from which we make the first of the subjoined extracts: the Bangor 'Mechanic and Farmer' we have long known as one of the most efficient advocates of medical reform. And we presume the others are not less honest in their remarks.

We learn that some of our "regular physicians" fall in with the *popular current* so far as to prescribe lobelia emetics. To all persons to whom such prescriptions are given we say that Thomsonians, those who best know what the medicinal qualities of lobelia are, which not one in a thousand of the "faculty" do; always accompany it, or previously prepare the stomach by pure stimulants; as cayenne, ginger, &c. We don't like any *quackery* with this best of medicine.—[Bangor Mechanic and Farmer.

RICHARD K. FROST, a Thomsonian physician in New York, is undergoing a trial for manslaughter, under the charge of poisoning, by administering lobelia emetic to a patient. It is proved, by the experience of 1,000,000 Thomsonians in the United States, that Lobelia does not contain one particle of poison.

If all the regular physicians that have administered deadly poisons to their patients were to suffer on the gallows, there is not hemp enough in the country to hang them.—[Boston Reformer.

We believe this a shameful business from beginning to end, originating in prejudice and malice. Because the Thomsonian doctors are comparatively few and weak, and the great body of regular physicians, numerous and powerful, the latter are borne out in all their errors and evils, and the former are trodden down. We have not a doubt but that ten patients are killed, that is, lost, through the errors and mistakes of the regulars, where there is one by the Thomsonians; because the former are more numerous and confident; yet *their* errors are excused, and the latter visited with disgrace and punishment.—[Lynn Record.

CONVICTION OF DR. FROST.—Dr. Richard K. Frost, a Thomsonian practitioner in the city of New York, has been found guilty of manslaughter in causing the death of Tiberius G. French by supposed improper treatment under the Thomsonian practice.

We were not prepared for a verdict of this kind. We could not believe that any Jury would convict Dr. Frost of *manslaughter*, for this seems to imply an *intention* to kill; and there was no evidence of any such intention on his part, or indeed of any want of solicitude for the recovery of his patient. He may have been injudicious in his treatment—the result, probably, of inexperience, perhaps of ignorance. All this is possible; but even were it certain, it is no more than can be said of many of

the "faculty." They lose patients enough, in all conscience—as the bills of mortality will show—yet nobody thinks of charging *them* with manslaughter. Nor would we have them charged thus. We have always believed that the "Regulars" had in their ranks some "regular built" good fellows, who would do every thing that a warm-hearted benevolence could suggest to rescue a suffering fellow creature from the grave; and that if they did not succeed in the humane attempt, we had no reason to suppose they left undone any portion of their duty. And so we judge of Thomsonism. We *know* there are very many worthy individuals, (and we have no cause to think that Dr. Frost is not worthy too), who sincerely believe in its efficacy—who have proved it so in many instances—and who are honorably doing all they can to spread the knowledge of it among the people. This they have a right to do—the same right as the Regulars—and we can see no propriety in condemning Dr. Frost for losing a patient, and permitting other Doctors, who are equally culpable, to go "unwhipped of justice." We like to see equality and true liberality in every thing. There should be no monopoly in the healing art, if there is in all others. This should be left open and free to all—untrammelled by Legislative enactments, or learned dictation—and that system which is found by practical experience to be the simplest and the safest in getting a sick man well, and keeping a well man from being sick, is the best system, no matter where it is learnt, or by whom it is practised.—[Boston Investigator.

The Philadelphia Ledger says—in speaking of Frost's trial—"We cannot comprehend how a man can justly be convicted of felonious homicide of a patient, for undertaking to cure him of disease. Manslaughter is a criminal offence; and to make it out in this case, the prosecutor was required to prove that Dr. Frost killed his patient, and either intended to kill him, or was indifferent whether he killed or cured him."—[Boston Post.

The Thomsonian Dr. Frost having been convicted of manslaughter in the fourth degree in New York on a technical ground and suffered to go at large until the decision of the court can be had on a motion in arrest of judgment, we suppose we may venture a few remarks. The prisoner accelerated a man's death by the too copious use of lobelia. Many think lobelia an active, virulent poison; but our own experience warrants us in saying that it is not. It is a violent emetic and may safely be given whenever the patient is not too far reduced to withstand its operation. It cannot lie upon the stomach, and therefore can be no poison, unless as any other animal or vegetable substance may be so considered. We should think it a very proper medicine to exhibit in all cases where the disease is seated in the stomach. The Thomsonian doctors hold that *all* diseases are so seated, and here they are at issue with the regular faculty.—[Boston Evening News.

[Subsequently to the above, appeared the following communication, in the same paper:]

THE THOMSONIAN THEORY.—Mr. Snelling:—In a paragraph relating to the Thomsonian Doctor

Frost of New York, in the Morning News of Dec. 17, you state that—

"The Thomsonian doctors hold that *all* diseases are seated in the *stomach*, and here they are at issue with the regular faculty."

Although this might be fairly deduced from the testimony of some at the late trial, who ought to have known better, it is very erroneous. The true theory of Thomsonians, as I understand it—and I have taken some pains to correctly understand it,—is this:

From the harmony which exists throughout the animal system and the mutual dependence of all the parts on each other, we conclude that the whole action of the system depends on the operation of some one principle, which, therefore, we may properly denominate the principle of life, or vital power. In all cases of disease the vital property (which some call animal heat,) is *diminished*—consequently the digestive powers are enfeebled and there is morbid matter in the system. In this consists the Thomsonian *unity* in theory and treatment. For if these evils are removed the patient is restored to health; otherwise not. If therefore we can find means which are best suited to sustain the patient, and prevent the further progress of decay, while these evils may be removed, we have found one *general* mode of treatment which is sure to cure all curable cases in which it is properly applied.

Here, then, is where we are at issue with the regular faculty. We believe that all maladies are in consequence of the obstruction or loss of vitality. They draw a line and believe about one half of our maladies arise from *too much* vitality. Hence we, in all cases, endeavor to sustain vitality, and they more frequently endeavor to reduce it.

A THOMSONIAN.

LOBELIA AND MR. WHITLAW.—That veracious and learned mongrel, Mr. Charles Whitlaw, of Medicated Vapor Bath notoriety, has somewhere had the impudence to assert that the Lobelia inflata is deleterious when grown on a wet clayey soil. Dr. Nardin of the Southern Botanic Journal, says, "We have used lobelia from a clay soil, and *know*, that what HE (Whitlaw) says, is FALSE, from the beginning to the end." We also are of this opinion, and conceive it to be but justice to the public for all botanic periodicals to show up Whitlaw stripped of his borrowed and stolen plumage. He is a quack, in every sense of the word—worse, if possible, than Beach of New York, who is bad enough, God knows.

THREE FINGERS IN ONE PIE.—"All who enter into this practice, ought to be properly qualified, that the credit and character of said practice may be properly sustained."—[Magoon's report at the Providence Convention.

"To this we agree, but do not know how *they* can who object to our college."—[Dr. Curtis.

"*They*" CAN agree to it, *because* they do *not* think your college the *only* place to "properly qualify" practitioners.—[Ed. Manual.

¶ A professional murder was committed last week, at the South End, by two "regular" doctors, on a mother and child, (in parturition.) As it was done according to law, however, there is of course no remedy for it.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Providence, January 3, 1838.

Mr. Editor—I perceive by your last Manual, that in speaking of the late convention you say that “one of the most prominent members has been detected on the eve of publishing a spurious edition of the New Guide—which is not the only manifestation of depravity we could mention, and of which the editor of the R. I. Botanic Advertiser is aware.” Now Mr Editor I must confess that I do not exactly understand the above sentence nor what follows, but if you intend to say that I was knowing of the publication of what you term “a spurious edition” the assertion is *false*—if otherwise, please explain in plain English without fear or favor, as I am a thorough going Thomsonian, have always courted investigation, and hope and trust I always shall. Please give the above an insertion in your next, with such remarks as you think proper, and I will guarantee that you shall hear from me in season for the succeeding number.

Your's truly,

J. A. BROWN, Editor of R. I. B. Adv.

REPLY.—We intended to say no such thing as that you were knowing to the spurious edition spoken of. The impressions under which the sentence was written,—which was related to you only in your *editorial* capacity,—we will state, as we have no desire to do you the slightest injustice. The late Convention had been called, as we conceived, to settle honorably and permanently, all difficulties which had existed between Dr. Thomson and those with whom he had had dealings, who felt disposed then and there to meet him. Whatever may have been the errors of Dr. Thomson, at any period, with regard to those difficulties, we cannot say,—but we do know that for weeks previous to the convention, he declared his intention to abide in every case by the decisions of that body, whatever they might be. We had hoped most fervently, that a similar disposition would have actuated every other member. Judge then of our surprise and disappointment, when we saw in your papers subsequent to the convention, statements that it had been guilty of unjustifiable or “arbitrary” acts, and apparent symptoms of dissatisfaction at the conclusions to which it had arrived, regarding some points not named by you. We assure you, sir, that we were astonished as well as mortified at the stand you appeared to take. You were a member of the convention, and if they were in your opinion guilty of “arbitrary” or unjust acts, it was your duty as well as privilege, to resist and protest against them, and not prevailing, to have withdrawn from the convention. Under such circumstances, you might have been justified in denouncing the convention through your paper—not by innuendoes—but openly, plainly, and specifically. Failing to do this, it would in our opinion have more honorable to have done nothing. Personally, as a private individual, we are happy to say that we have nothing against you. With regard to your editorials, we felt concerning them pretty much as we intended you should feel in consequence of our remark—in a state of *betweenity*. And the remark was made because we think an open enemy is preferable to a false friend. Gratified at the assurance of your “thorough-going Thomsonism,” and hoping we have been sufficiently explicit, we remain, “without fear or favor,”

Truly your's,

THE EDITOR.

Waterbury, (Ct.) December 26, 1837.

To DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Sir:—Enclosed I send you \$10 for the Manual, &c. &c. The Manual is perused with deep interest in this place, and the Thomsonian system is fast gaining ground here, in spite of the vigilant opposition of its enemies. I have located in this place. My practice has been remarkably successful; and indeed, I am sanguine in the belief that the day is not far distant, when the people will choose safe and salutary remedies, in preference to the cold mineral depletive system. The people are awaking to a subject that so deeply interests them, and is of such momentous importance. From recent accounts I learn with pleasure of the rapid progress of the “health restoring system” throughout this State. All we need is unity among its votaries, and a strict adherence to the principles first laid down by its venerable founder, in order to hasten its universal adoption.

Yours, &c.

JOHN W. JOHNSON.

Paris, (Ten.) December 11, 1837.

To DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Dear Sir:—Enclosed are \$5 for the Manual, &c. From the many solicitations I have had, and the interest I have in the welfare of the people, I have determined to quit all other business and turn my whole attention to the Thomsonian system, intending to present it to the people in its genuineness. A good many persons owning a family right, have got rather smarter than yourself, in their own conceit; and have found out that by a “judicious management” of the two systems, a man will have a better practice—as they can please any one, and are prepared to give either kind of medicine. The people should be cautious of such practitioners, for their conduct evinces they have no mind of their own regarding the remedy to be applied in case of disease. Why is a physician called upon by the afflicted? Is it not because they confide in his skill? If so, never call upon a mongrel. If you do, when they arrive they will enquire “what kind of medicine do you want?—I can give either.” It appears to me, that if the patient is to prescribe for himself, he had better at once send for such medicines as he wants, and rid himself of a doctor's bill. A professed Thomsonian said to me this day, that he should start tomorrow to Cincinnati or Louisville, to attend the Lectures—more, he said, for the *name* than anything else. He would then go into practice, on both systems, in order to secure a good business—but would use the new system in his own family. He intends to locate in Mississippi, where I am told there are a great many mongrels. I replied to him, that I should practice solely on Thomsonian principles, and if that did not secure me business, I would be without any. I hope to be one of the last who will take the lives of my fellow beings for a little cash. Persons ignorant are more excusable than those who know better. Such men in my estimation, should not be countenanced by any people as physicians. I hope to be able to do something for the advancement of the cause, and consequently the good of the people, notwithstanding a host of ‘regulars’ and their dupes to contend against, and mongrels to carry as dead weights. I am much pleased with the idea of State societies, and were the Thomsonians of Tennessee to appoint a time and place, I should be much pleased to meet with them for that purpose.

Yours, &c.

S. B. ADEN.

E. LARRABEE—SPURIOUS MEDICINES.

Philadelphia, January 2, 1838.

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Dear Sir:—In your Manual of yesterday I perceive that you have made a request of the Thomsonians of the south and west, who have purchased *spurious* medicines of *Ephraim Larrabee*, to forward to you or Mr. Mattson, (Editor of the Phila. Botanic Sentinel,) testimony to that effect. In compliance with that request, I submit a few facts, in doing which, I am influenced by a desire to promote the welfare of the human family, by advocating your invaluable system in all its purity and simplicity.

In the summer and fall of 1834, I purchased all of my medicines of *Ward Sears* and *E. Larrabee*, (with the exception of *Lobelia*, which I gathered and prepared myself.) At that time I did not possess a right—was laboring under the effects of chronic disease, and from the inertness and bad quality of said medicine, as exhibited in my own, and various other cases, which failed in producing the desired effects, I was almost induced to abandon the Thomsonian remedies forever. Fortunately for me, at this critical juncture, I happened at Baltimore, where I saw several genuine Thomsonians, yourself among the number. Feeling much indisposed at the time, I had occasion frequently to take medicine at the houses of my Thomsonian friends. Several of those doses were taken from your own stock, mixed by and taken from your own hands. I very soon discovered a strongly marked difference, both in color, taste and effect, between these medicines and such as were called by the same names which I had been in the habit of using before. This was the first circumstance that aroused my suspicions. From a fair comparison of my stock of medicines with the genuine articles, I discovered that the most gross and palpable deficiency was in the articles of cayenne, bayberry, and spice bitters. Several of the most respectable practitioners of this city, who purchased cayenne of Ward Sears & Co. about the same time, have informed me that they had to return that article on their hands. Their bayberry about that time had very little pungency and smelled mouldy. The spice bitters had a great deal too much sugar in their composition, and little if any of one of the most essential ingredients, golden seal. Yet Larrabee asserted positively and vehemently before five or six individuals (yourself among the number), that his spice bitters were made precisely according to the recipe which Dr. Thomson had given him at the convention held the year previous. *About two hours after making this assertion, friend Larrabee came to me of his own accord and acknowledged the very defects you had noticed in said bitters, namely, the superabundance of sugar and the deficiency of golden seal, intimating at the same time, that the medicine had been made by an unskilful hand during his absence on a journey, and that it had been given me by mistake.*(1) (Query: Did his candor and magnanimity ever prompt him to make the same confession to you, to Dr. Curtis, and to the other gentlemen to whom he had made a different statement?) I have not purchased an ounce of medicine of E. Larrabee since the fall of 1834, and cannot undertake to say whether he has since vended spurious articles or not. It is a possible case that all his stock of spurious medicine may have been consumed during the conflagration of his factory 2 or 3 years since. (Such may have been a wise dispensa-

tion of Providence, to protect in his mercy such poor chronic invalids as I was three years ago.) For aught I know, he may have taken example by so terrible a judgment, and have repudiated all spurious medicine. If, since the resuscitation of his *Phoenix Establishment*, he has reformed his medicines and morals, I think he would, if his repentance and reformation were thorough, confess his former delinquency, and make the same candid and magnanimous acknowledgement to you, Dr. Curtis, and others, that he did to me, (in relation to the spice bitters). Perhaps he may have done so(2)—I know not. But alas! what am I to infer from the vituperation and the opprobrious epithets and charges which he heaps on the head of his benefactor—such efforts (viper-like) to bite the hand that feeds him. "I'd rather be a dog and bay the moon," than such a *Thomsonian*! Respectfully yours, I. BRIGGS.

(1) We took the liberty to italicize this passage.

(2) Not to Dr. Thomson, we believe.

The suggestions on another subject will be attended to.—[Ed. Man.

QUACK DOCTORS.—New York is the head quarters of these vermin, a real El Dorado for quack salvers and pill venders. Dr. Chabert has realized it is said \$75,000 out of the pockets of the poor, suffering, and credulous; Dr. Brandreth can afford out of his profits to spend about \$20,000 in advertising his nostrums; Dr. Evans publishes medical treatises on nosology, with certificates to match; and Dr. Moffat, has a nostrum for every human infirmity in the shape of his infallible *Phoenix* bitters. A curious story is told of the manner in which this latter trash obtained its name. When Mr. R. A. Locke, of moon hoax, and Chabert hoax notoriety, wrote the first puffs of Moffat's specific, it was a question what name, full, sonorous, *ad captandum*, and remarkable should be given to it and the conclave were at a loss for some time. At this period the trial of Richard P. Robinson was progressing, and the name of the District Attorney was in every one's mouth. In order to secure the same chance for the newly invented bitters, the name of *Phoenix* was prefixed to them, and they were at once heralded forth as the unrivalled elixir for all the ills of life. By dint of strenuous puffing these impudent empirics poured their worthless rubbish down the throats of the community, and filled their own pockets in return. We hope the recent melancholy result of Doctor Frost's experiments on the lives of the citizens will teach them caution in their audacious quackery.

The above is from some New York paper—we know not which. The writer perhaps thought he was doing some service to the public by it—possibly it may be so. For our own part however, as much as we detest quackery, we would trust our life to Moffat, Chabert, Evans, or any other popular empiric, a thousand times sooner than to the "regular" dealers in poisons; we would do so because we have good reason to believe that the nostrums now flourishing are less deleterious than the drugs of the faculty—though we have no doubt they are a public evil, the purgative ones particularly. As for what the writer says of Dr. Frost, his remarks are dictated solely by ignorance and prejudice, and are unworthy of a reply.

GOOD FROM OUT OF NAZARETH—or *Scraps from Ancient Authors*.—Medicine was not invented after reasoning, but after medicine was discovered, then the reasons were sought after.—*Celsus*.

There are two medical *fulcri*—reason and experience. Experience precedes, reason follows: hence, reasoning not founded on experience, avails nothing.—*Hoffman*.

Nature objecting, medicine hath no avail.—*Celsus*.

It is the part of a wise physician to decline prescribing in a lost case.—*Ib*.

He who knows many useful things, is truly wise. *Contra Æsculap*.

The physician uses a few remedies, but those are select.—*Trit*.

Heroic medicines in the hands of an unskilful man, are like a sword in the hands of a madman.—*Ib*.

Select remedies ennoble a physician.—*Linnaeus*.

He who prescribes a farrago of medicine, sins either by design or ignorance.—*Ib*.

The vegetable kingdom is the most noble in medicine.—*Ib*.

Where there is only one road to health, this must be tried, even with danger to the patient.—*Ib*.

The rich man oftentimes gives up the power over his life to a wise physician.(?)—*Ib*.

Nature, assisted by art, sometimes effects miracles.—*Ib*.

Barbarians have more conduced to the augmentation of medicine, than the schools of all ages.—*Brunn*.

He who can cure by simples, need not seek for compounds.—*Villanov*.

I had rather commit my health to a famous empiric, than to a subtle mechanic.—*Goelik*.

BOTANIC LUMINARY.—We have received the first number of the second volume of this periodical, it having been transferred by Dr. H. Wright, to Doctors Dodge & King, who no doubt will make it an interesting work. We wish the new proprietors, particularly our old acquaintance Dr. King, the greatest success. It is published at Saline, Michigan, and is to be issued semi-monthly.

AN ENQUIRY.—We wish to enquire of the editor the Recorder, if he is prepared to fellowship a man, by admitting him to a seat in the Thomsonian conventions, who has been sentenced to abide by certain articles and agreements, by a committee of the U. S. Convention, the person himself being present and on trial, and since the decision utterly refusing to abide by it; not to mention his having forfeited his membership by other criminal acts? Dr. Curtis will probably know to whom we allude.

TO DR. NARDIN.—If Dr. Nardin ever bought "medicines unfit for use" of any of Dr. Thomson's agents, he ought to have returned such medicines to said agent, and also to have made known to Dr. Thomson the circumstances of the case.

Briggs's letter, on the preceding page, has an important bearing on the question of Larrabee's spurious medicines, his general character, &c.

☞ The Philadelphians have subscribed \$140 towards the second trial of Dr. Frost, if he has one.

☞ TO THE PUBLIC. ☞

As it seems to be the object of many to mystify and amalgamate my system of practice, thereby departing from the rules which I have laid down for the purpose of keeping it simple and distinct, I hereby make known to all concerned, that in case any person should be indicted for malpractice or other crime, and it shall appear that he is not an agent of mine, but that he goes contrary to my rules in administering compounds or simples which I reject or have discarded, so far from assisting, I shall oppose him, and endeavor to have him held up to the world as a vile impostor, worse even than those who make no secret of giving deadly poisons for the removal of disease—because giving deleterious drugs and compounds, under the name of Thomsonian, not only injures the patient, but deceives others, and the Thomsonian system gets the blame. Therefore, if any such person should find himself opposed, or even proceeded against by real Thomsonians, let him not be surprised, for it is but an act of justice due to the public.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, January 15, 1838.

SPURIOUS MEDICINES.

☞ Persons who have bought medicines of any one not authorized by Dr. Thomson, as "Thomsonian medicines," being deceived by false representations, can act their own pleasure about paying for them; as, in case of being deceived in this way, neither law nor justice requires it.

CONVENTION AT HARTFORD.

☞ THE CONNECTICUT BRANCH OF THE UNITED STATES THOMSONIAN FRIENDLY BOTANIC SOCIETY will convene at Union Hall, in Hartford, on Tuesday, the 16th day of January, 1838, at 10 o'clock, A. M. The business before the Convention (says the circular) will be highly important. The annual choice of officers will take place Tuesday afternoon. It is expected that Dr. C. W. Martin of Salem, Mass., will lecture during the evenings of the sitting of the Convention. The question will be discussed whether any but Dr. Thomson can prepare Thomsonian medicines.

☞ Pure Thomsonian Medicines, prepared by Doctor Samuel Thomson himself, will be kept constantly for sale, at wholesale or retail, by JONAS W. CHAPMAN, (Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson,) at the New England General Depot, No. 40, Salem-street, Boston. Also—Family Rights and Robinson's Lectures.

The *Vegetable Elixir* of E. Smith or H. Winchester will be sold at half the price of Thomson's No. 6.

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By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, Printer and Publisher.

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ON THE PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF BLOOD-LETTING.

Among the various means made use of to restore the sick to health, there is none so irrational and absurd as blood-letting. It is at present considered by the "faculty," almost a universal remedy, and resorted to for the slightest indisposition; and, although daily slaying its thousands, it still continues to be the main pillar of the profession. Indeed, were bleeding and mercury to be prohibited, regular physicians would find themselves in a sad dilemma; and their hands would be completely tied. We are unable to determine precisely the commencement of this pernicious custom; but we find it to be very ancient. It appears to have been commensurate with the declension of the healing art in the earliest ages of the world. It was not however carried to such a fury till after the discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey (1628). It was soon after this period that the faculty began their mad career, in committing the most wanton violation of the laws of nature. Those who were so unfortunate as to fall victims to disease, were doomed to suffer the most extravagant effusion of blood, and were soon hurried to an untimely grave "*secundum artem*." The guillotine of France hardly surpassed this systematic murdering. In process of time, practitioners began to be aware of the mischief they were committing, which, in some measure damped their ardor in these bloody scenes. This check induced a distinguished physician to remark, that the proportionate disuse of the lancet was one of the greatest improvements in modern medicine. We find, however, that blood-letting has been practised for a long period with almost the same infatuation; and, lamentable for mankind, at the present day it is regarded as the most powerful weapon to subdue disease. There are few maladies in which it is not recommended. In pleurisy and all inflammatory complaints, an astonishing quantity of blood is drawn from the system—sometimes to the amount of six or seven pounds in twenty-four hours. The effect of this practice is such as the community at large little dream of. An examination into the consequences of blood-letting, will prove, that so far from being beneficial, it is productive of the most serious and fatal effects.

Nature has endowed the animal frame with the power of preparing, from proper aliment, a certain quantity of blood. This vital fluid, subservient to nutrition, is, by the amazing structure of the heart and blood-vessels, circulated through the different parts of the system. A certain natural balance between what is taken in, and what passes off by the several outlets to the body, is, in a state of health, regularly preserved. When this balance, so essential to life, is interrupted, a deviation from a sound state is immediately perceived, and health from that moment is rendered precarious. Blood-letting tends artificially to destroy that natural balance in the constitution. Nature, deprived of a quantity of the circulating fluid, being fitted with the means for repairing the loss she has sustained, begins immediately to repair it. The secretions and excretions in

general are diminished—the appetite is increased—and for a short time the process of nutrition is unusually quick. [If there is much constitutional debility however, the consequences will be very different—even small bleedings rendering the remanider of the vital fluid thin, watery or dropsical, and hastening death.]

Thus nature soon restores to the constitution what art has taken from it. The consequences, therefore, of having been once bled, are not always obvious. The single operation, however, is an imprudent violation of nature and of common sense.

But too often the practice has not rested here. For various are the incidents which favor the repetition of blood-letting. The patient, if addicted to an easy, indolent, luxuriant mode of life, may find himself, after the evacuation, sensible of some present ease. The system being before too full of blood, enjoys a short respite from its usual oppression; or, after the bleeding, though it was improper, and tended rather to increase the disease, yet the hope of relief, or a change of weather, the benefit of exercise, or some other alteration in an accustomed manner of living, may, by palliating or removing the complaint, prejudice the patient in favor of the lancet. Admitting it to be possible that the disorder may be of such a kind as really to admit of alleviation from bleeding, nevertheless, the remedy unhappily proves of worse effect to the constitution than the disease itself would have done, though entirely left to nature. Numbers who have been relieved by bleeding, however, are apt to be partial to the means of their relief, and to become strenuous advocates for its use, even in cases by no means similar to their own.

These, and a variety of other accidental causes, often persuade to repetitions of blood-letting. The consequences now become more serious. The constitution, though it did not suffer materially from one bleeding, yet, far from being able to undergo with impunity repeated operations of a similar kind, turns against itself those powers which were given for its preservation, and co-operates with the lancet in promoting the accomplishment of its own destruction. For now, the constitution not only repairs the losses of blood it sustains, but, if the common intervals of time be interposed, makes more blood than is naturally required for the purposes of health and life, that it may be able to bear such repeated evacuations.

Thus the habit of blood-letting is established. But, in fact, habitual blood-letting augments the very evil it was intended to remove. For, sanguine evacuations, necessitating the constitution to make more blood than is requisite, produce too great fulness of the system, resulting in the disease called plethora. The balance between what is taken into the body, and what passes off by its several outlets, is no longer maintained, and if the person continue to live in his accustomed manner, plethora will undoubtedly prevail, except at a time when the constitution has just received the unnatural assistance of the lancet. The habit of letting-blood increases and becomes stronger by repetition. In this state, the constitution in spite of art, will at times

labor under various degrees of plethora, till the vessels arrive at that point of fullness which again creates the necessity of bleeding. Though some constitutions are so robust, or so peculiarly formed by nature, as to bear such treatment without any *evident* bad consequences, yet this is but the privilege of a few. Many will severely suffer, though they themselves, may often be the first to extol in the highest terms of praise, the very remedy which has proved so pernicious to their own constitutions. They have been bled till stated bleedings became necessary, not only for the support of health, but even for the preservation of their lives. They have injudiciously created to themselves the necessity of bleeding, and are even happy to find that it relieves complaints, which it at first tended to induce, and afterwards to confirm.

The effects of plethora are many and dangerous. A slight degree of it often produces strange commotions in weak and irritable habits. No person, who depends for the preservation of his health on an artificial discharge of blood, can ever be pronounced out of danger. Before the usual means of relief can be employed, the sanguine fullness may at one time or another have proceeded to a morbid, or even to a fatal length. The anticipation of the stated bleedings may, with the greatest inconvenience, lessen temporarily, but can never remove the danger. An increase of fatness, unnatural heat, torpor, inactivity, and a sense of lassitude, are common effects of plethora. The whole vascular system is unnaturally put upon the stretch, and along with it, the nervous and muscular fibres. Thus, by slow degrees, the tone of the body, in consequence of so considerable an over distension, is in danger of being destroyed. The constitution itself, in proportion to its native vigor, is rendered liable, exclusive of every other cause of disease, to break down many years sooner than it might otherwise have done, in the common course of nature, if nature's laws had not been wantonly violated, or presumptuously despised. Hence old age sets in at an earlier season, and becomes afflicted with heavier infirmities. Frequently the appetite fails, the powers of digestion and nutrition are impaired, the body shrinks, the mind becomes dejected, the stomach and bowels are disordered, sleep is interrupted and unrefreshing, and, in short, the whole constitution fundamentally shaken and debilitated.

These are the slow and frequent consequences of plethora. Other diseases also occur, which, though on the whole they are perhaps less destructive, are however more painful, and better distinguished.

Too great a fullness of blood predisposes the constitution to a world of disorders. Inflammatory fever, and external inflammation, the phrensy, the pleurisy, and the quinsy, rheumatism, hemorrhage, &c. are frequently the disorders of a sanguine habit, depending greatly on the plethoric state. Physicians are perfectly agreed that too great a quantity of blood, increasing irritability, has a strong tendency to excite, in habits where the predisposition to such disorders exists, convulsions, St. Vitus's dance, epilepsy, and hysteric fits—complaints, which otherwise might never have made their appearance. We will further add, pains of the head, vertigo, nightmare, often the forerunners of apoplexy and palsy,

which are justly ranked among the unhappy effects of plethora. Habitual blood-letting tends particularly to bring on apoplectic and paralytic complaints. The morbid habit, acquiring strength by repetition, produces its fullest and most trying effects in advanced age, when venous plethora occurs, and when the veins of the head in old people, are particularly subject to rupture, and the consequent effusion of blood, which is far the most frequent and fatal cause of apoplexy.

Thus much by way of example, to show the bad effects of bleeding. It has been proved that artificial discharges of blood, instead of diminishing, tend to produce plethora; the pernicious consequences of which, on the human constitution, have been briefly enumerated.

Some may object to our conclusions, because in many instances of habitual blood-letting, the effects mentioned have not followed; and that where they have, other causes have produced them. Such an argument is inconclusive in itself, and inapplicable. Not uncommonly, the slighter effects of bleeding are inaccurately overlooked, or ignorantly neglected. But, where that is not the case, it may be observed, that particular causes of disease, when not alone completely efficient to suspend the vital functions, may often be applied without inducing any morbid effect. Hard would be the fate of mankind, were every species of contagion to affect every person with immediate fatality to whom it might be applied. To argue that habitual blood-letting is no cause of apoplexy, because apoplexy is not constantly induced, is no more rational than to deny the power of a pestilential contagion, because many may escape infection, although in contact with it. To produce disease, two particulars in general are requisite: first, the predisposition of the body; secondly the application of the exciting cause. Without the predisposition, we are often exposed with impunity to otherwise very active causes of disease; and, without the application of the exciting cause, the predisposition may continue with us through life in its inactive state. We grant that a luxurious habit of living, with the neglect of exercise, may very powerfully assist in exciting the bad consequences of plethora. It is believed too, that there are men, who would rather submit to the risk of bleeding even once a month, with the privilege in the mean time of indulging their vitiated appetite at large, and of enjoying the pleasures of ease, than, by living a temperate and active life, possess the most perfect state of health, independent of this assistance of art. Yet all this does not invalidate the fact that, that habitual blood-letting often produces a fullness of the vascular system, liable to be followed by pernicious effects, and that it is absurd in itself, and highly detrimental to health.

In a reformed journal we notice the following observations of the surgeon of the Kentish militia, England, on the effects of blood-letting in disease, which are similar to the conclusions of many other distinguished physicians, after having carefully noted the general effects of the unnatural custom.

"I have been upwards of six years surgeon of the western regiment of Kentish militia, during which time our number of sick has never been inconsiderable; whereby much opportunity of practice has been afforded me. I have been in the habit

of keeping a journal of the different cases as they occurred, wherein I carefully noted every symptom of which the patient complained, the various remedies exhibited, the time when, and with what view given. I also marked every change that took place in the course of a disease, and the effect of medicine made use of; and lastly my own opinion of the method of cure which I adopted. In the course of my practice, I have endeavored on every occasion, to determine the justness of preconceived theories by experience, and on every subject to think for myself, uninfluenced by the tenets of schools, or the opinions of others. The prevalence of any mode of practice is certainly not a clear proof of its being useful; nor is it a sufficient recommendation that it may be practised with safety. If it is not evidently beneficial, it ought to be laid aside. In this light I consider the custom of bleeding, as a means of cure in febrile and other diseases, which I have no hesitation in saying, is not necessary in any complaint with which we are acquainted. If we grant that any deviation from the healthy state denotes debility either general or partial, surely whatever has a tendency to debilitate further, it is reasonable to suppose, ought to be carefully avoided. It certainly cannot be denied, that in every disease where bleeding has been used, complete recovery has been protracted, owing to the debility thereby occasioned. We are directed to use blood-letting to lessen irritability, to take off the *phlogistic diathesis*, to deplete the blood-vessels, and to prevent inflammation. But I know by experience, that these indications can be fulfilled much better, and with less danger, by other means. Though the ill effects of the loss of blood, unless excessive, are seldom perceivable in youth, yet they rarely fail of being felt before the age of forty-five. People who have been often bled when young, about this period of life begin to be afflicted with chronic pains. They recover very slowly from fits of illness, and are very liable to paroxysms, and a variety of other disorders. I have rarely been deceived in my conjectures respecting patients of this description, when I have met with them. Cases mentioned by Dr. Denman show, that it does not prevent inflammation, nor abortion. Nor is it proved, that by taking away blood, we lessen the diameter of the blood-vessels, as it is found that six ounces from a large orifice, has a greater effect than twenty from a small one."

MEDICAL REFORM.—"The healing art is one of vast importance, as in it the health and lives of the people are concerned. The multitude of theories, and the various and discordant practices connected with this art, call for the deliberate investigation of this whole people. *Guess work* should be abandoned, and the fashion of medical practice should cease to cater to public or private whims, but be elevated to stand, unmasked, before enlightened judgement. The sober and certain principles of science, ought certainly to be the foundation on which to erect the important fabric of correct practice, and these principles should be as well understood, and as easily pointed out as the letters of the alphabet. This the public will ere long demand, and the medical profession must be prepared for this, or sink in public estimation.—[Bangor Mechanic and Farmer.

CONSUMPTION.—We have made the following abstract of an article in the Medical Library, respecting the causes and prevention of consumption, which we think may be both interesting and useful to many of our readers.

1st. There can be no doubt in the world that pulmonary consumption is an hereditary disease; or rather that the tendency or liability to it prevails very remarkably in particular families. Those who have fair skin and fair and soft hair, are, upon the whole, most predisposed to tubercular consumption. It appears to be most prevalent in chicken-breasted individuals, who have long necks, soft hair, and long eyelashes.

2d. Consumption prevails most at particular ages—between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five.

It often occurs, both at an earlier period, when children breathe an impure air, and at a later period from a variety of indirect causes.

3d. The tendency to consumption, where there is no hereditary predisposition, may be acquired from the effects of colds and other diseases, and from various circumstances that destroy health.

4th. One thing is quite certain, that everything that tends to break up general health and strength, may either produce tubercles of the lungs, or to develope those which already exist. With a view to prevention, if you maintain the general strength of the children of families where consumption prevails, and also in adults, you will prevent the occurrence of the disease; break up the general strength and the disease will be developed.

5th. Another cause that predisposes to, or excites consumption, is a cold and variable temperature. Consumption prevails most in countries where the atmosphere is variable. Hence, it is remarkably prevalent in this country.

6th. Another occasion which predisposes to it, or excites it, is local irritation; especially in the lungs. Hence the lung complaints of those who breathe air that is filled with particles of dust and poisonous gasses.

7th. Copious evacuations will produce consumption. Large losses of blood break up the strength very much, and when the least tendency to consumption exists, it is very apt to supervene. Mothers thus become consumptive by suckling their children too long, and losing their rest at night.

8th. Night-watching is one thing which breaks up the strength remarkably. If a young lady who is consumptive, has two or three sisters, never allow either of them to perform the office of nurse for the patient; if you do, consumption is almost sure to follow. Two or three persons in one family have died, one after another, from the combined effect of anxiety of mind and night-watching, on persons predisposed to consumption, independent of the inhalation of the odor from the patient's breath.

9th. Another condition which breaks up the strength is disorder of the stomach, liver and bowels, and this is one of the frequent occasions of consumption.

10th. A very frequent cause in females is tight-lacing. Anything which prevents a free and full expansion of the chest, will bring on disease of the lungs.

[From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.]

FROST'S TRIAL.

We learn from a gentleman of this city, who attended the trial, that general astonishment was expressed at the verdict. In this feeling we cannot refrain from participating, for though taking neither side of the controversy between Thomsonians and regular physicians, we cannot comprehend how a man can be convicted of felonious homicide of a patient, for undertaking to cure him of disease. We will go as far as any to encourage and promote knowledge, and discountenance ignorance, but do not think that truth is discovered or sustained by suppressing inquiry.

This trial was a contest between two systems of medicine, when it should have been an inquiry whether Mr. Frost killed his patient intentionally, or prescribed for him with deliberate disregard to consequences. Manslaughter is a criminal offence; and to make it out in this case, the prosecutor was required to prove that Dr. Frost killed his patient, and either intended to kill him, or was indifferent whether he killed or cured him. Whoever will read the whole testimony, even as it is imperfectly reported in some of the New York papers, and then judge candidly, will find some difficulty in making out either point. The testimony would rather support the hypothesis that the patient was killed by the practice of Dr. Cheeseman; and it fully supports the position, that instead of designing to kill him, or being careless of his fate, Dr. Frost was extremely desirous of saving him.

But leaving all comment upon the testimony, and considering the trial a contest between two systems, we would ask by what rule of fair dealing a man is to be prosecuted as a criminal who loses a patient under one system, while he is to be charged merely with misfortune, or even commended for skill, when losing a patient under another system? If the loss of a patient is to be a criminal offence, let the principle be applied to every practitioner; and as this patient died while under the care of Dr. Cheeseman, let him also be indicted. At common law, if an individual, whether licensed to practice or not, displays want of skill or attention, he is liable, criminally. Lord Ellenborough, Chief Justice of England, maintained that if a practitioner destroyed a *single* patient by such ignorance or inattention, he was guilty of manslaughter; and this declaration was distinctly stated to the jury by the Recorder, in his charge on this trial. The witnesses declare that Dr. Cheeseman opened the windows, put out the fire, and drew the bedclothes from the patient, while he was in a state of perspiration, and left him thus exposed for several minutes. This would produce violent disease in a man of strong constitution, in high health; and in one already debilitated by disease, and under the operation of medicine, it would almost inevitably produce death. No respectable physician in this city will risk his reputation by denying this, and every honest one, in this or any other city, will say that this was sufficient to kill the patient, in the condition in which Dr. Cheeseman described him. If then Lord Ellenborough's declaration be law, and no sound lawyer will question it, Dr. Cheeseman should be indicted for manslaughter. If he be not, the laws of New York are administered to punish ignorance, carelessness, or malice in one, and to excuse or protect

them in another. We would not protect either in any body.

But we shall be told that the system of Thomson is quackery, while the regular system is science. In reply to this, we ask, *which regular system?* There are several,—the disagreement of doctors being an old story. Any system, regular or irregular, must be mere human opinion; and as mankind have an equal right of opinion, the only correct mode of testing the truth of systems, is a comparison of results. Who then cure the greatest number? Regulars or Thomsonians? If the first, their system is the best, as proved by experience, and the other is quackery. If the Thomsonians cure the most, their system is the best, as proved by experience, and the regular system becomes quackery. But how shall results be obtained? Not by indicting one set of practitioners and leaving the other at full liberty: but by giving to both the same right of action, and then judging them by success. He is the best physician who cures the most; and by what system the patients are cured or killed, is of little importance. The comparative curing or killing is all that the world wishes to know. Which set of practitioners can show the best account, is more than we can say, and we should be obliged to any correspondent for statistical tables under both systems.

We shall be told that if ignorant persons are permitted to practice, they will deceive and kill those not competent to judge. But we ask how their ignorance is to appear, excepting from their practice? When a young physician begins his career, he must wait for patients, because his skill has not been proved; the public preferring an old practitioner, whose merit is evinced by success. What does this prove? That however great be a young man's talents, or long his term of study, or celebrated his school, he must wait till he is tried, and rely upon curing his first patient, for obtaining another. Should his first half dozen cases be unfortunate, he will obtain no more. Let the same test be applied to Thomsonians, and all other irregulars. If they kill, they will be avoided; if they cure, they deserve encouragement.

In short, let us have freedom of inquiry, and then judge by results. All old systems *may* be false; some one not yet devised, *may* be true. Free inquiry may discover the truth; checks and impediments upon inquiry will not. To insure free inquiry, let people choose their own physicians, for an enlightened people will not long choose erroneously. If Thomson's system be true, let the world use it; and to ascertain its truth, let it be examined and tried, as other systems have been. The effect of this trial will be curiosity to examine Thomsonism. We say, let it be examined thoroughly, and sustained or rejected, according to its ascertained merits.

MENTAL PHYSIC.—Sorbiers, an eminent French physician, observes:—"I look to tranquility of mind and patience, to contribute as much as any thing whatever to the cure of disease. On this principle, I account for the circumstance of animals not laboring under illness so long as human beings. Brutes do not think so much as we do, nor vex themselves about futurity, but endure their maladies without reflecting on them, and recover from them by the sole means of temperance." We imagine this mental serenity more efficient in preventing than in curing disease. *En passant!* Brutes have no "doctors"!—[Ed. Man.]

[From the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel.]

THE DIFFERENCE.—The difference between the Thomsonians and the Regulars, does not appear so much in regard to the nature of disease, as in the method of treatment. Indeed, there cannot be much difference in regard to plain matters of fact, when present to view. As to the distinctions and classifications of diseases, whether organic or nervous, or whether endemic, epidemic, sporadic, &c., they answer better for fine spun theories and a pretended importance in medical practitioners, than for any useful purpose in the method of treatment.

The Thomsonians believe, that all diseases, in whatever form manifested, whether general or local, idiopathic or symptomatic, are the result of a similar proximate cause, and therefore should be treated upon the same general principles. That all diseases cause debility, and that therefore to adopt a plan to increase the debility is in opposition to all the laws of vitality and the indications of nature, as well as of reason and common sense. That whenever disease exists, it necessarily impairs the natural functions; to restore which and secure the proper vitality to the organ or organs affected, it is necessary to add a stimulus, which, in consequence of disease, has become deficient. They therefore in all cases rely upon stimulants as the proper means of curing disease. That as three fifths of the effete or worn out matter of the human system in a state of health is discharged through the pores of the body, the vapor bath is a most efficient means of promoting those eliminations which are often very much suspended by disease; and also of adding an artificial heat when the natural heat is not properly diffused. That as inflammatory actions are the result of obstructed circulation in the capillary system, the administration of lobelia and other stimulants is the most efficient—in fact the only efficient means to relieve constrictions of the internal capillaries—to promote the proper circulation, and to relieve the stomach, the great fountain of life, which in all general diseases is affected, either primarily as the seat of the disease, or by sympathy when the disease approaches through the external surface. They believe in tonics and a nutritive alimentation liberally indulged, in order to support the powers of life and give additional vitality to the organ or organs affected, because they know that animal life or vitality is only sustained by the continual presence of nutritive and stimulating agents in proper combination, the same as vegetable life is sustained by the continual presence of air, warmth, and moisture.

But what do the Regulars believe?—The answer will explain the *difference*, with which we first sat out. They believe that in most diseases are discovered symptoms of inflammatory action, and therefore to administer stimulants or allow a nutritious diet would increase the disorder, although they know that without these, disease itself would be engendered and death ensue. They believe that to diminish vitality is to lessen inflammatory action, and this they do by blistering, bleeding, starving, and administering poisonous medicines which tend rapidly to the reduction of vitality. They believe that medicinal agents do not cure or remove diseases, and are only intended to reduce the powers of life or the vital actions, so as to let the disease get well of itself, or nature cure herself by refusing her the least particle of support! They believe that if one organ is affected, the proper remedy is to create a disease in another or contigu-

ous organ, so as to draw off by sympathy the disease from the one primarily affected! This they effect by administering a poisonous medicine which acts specifically in a certain organ, causing a derangement and disease internally; or by a blister which causes a disease externally! It is common however to combine both these together and thereby secure two sources for sympathetic actions, and to bleed *freely* so as to reduce the vitality almost to extinction, and thus they think the original disease will be scattered among several organs, and at last die of itself! They think that very often two opposite conditions or manifestations of diseased action exist at the same time in the same individual, and that as they cannot administer to both diseases at the same time with a hope of effect, they must prefer that which is the more prominent and suffer the other to work its own cure, or wait till its opposite has been subdued! But where opposite manifestations of diseased action exist to any great extent, the patient is supposed to be a hopeless case, and therefore the remedies are not very important!

The sum of the difference then is, that the Thomsonians, considering debility the effect of disease, always oppose or counteract debility, and support nature by aiding the vital powers; while the regulars assist debility by subduing the force of the vital actions and opposing the natural laws of life and motion. The sum is infinite, because the farther each progresses the wider they are asunder. It is for the public to consider this difference, and then pursue that which nature and reason dictates to be true.

ANECDOTE OF BARON HOLEACH.—This singular character was always ambitious of being regarded as a man of universal science; and received, one day, from an American port, a letter from an intimate friend which was written in the following manner:

"I had a very comfortable and safe passage here, unmarked by any particular event, except the following, which I think well worthy your attention. A cabin-boy fell from the mainmast on the deck and broke his leg; it was tied together as strongly as possible, with packthread steeped in resin and brandy; in a minute after this operation he could use it as well as he did before the accident. All the crew were present at this process, and we know not which to admire most, the skill of him who undertook the cure, or its entire success."

The baron lost no time in communicating this intelligence to the college of surgeons, vouching for the veracity of his correspondent, and the disciples of Esculapius debated together to find out the means of so marvellous a cure; it is even affirmed that one among them was about to publish a learned dissertation, to prove and establish by physical reasons, the manner in which this operation ought to be performed, when the baron received a second letter from his friend, which contained the following lines:

"I forgot to mention one trifling circumstance in the account of the event of which I informed you in my last; which is, that the leg of the cabin boy, which was broken, was made of wood."

There's nothing like intoxication
To thin off extra population.

INFLUENCE OF THE MIND ON DIGESTION.—[From *Combe's Physiology*.]—The state of the mind exerts a powerful influence on the whole process of nutrition, and greatly modifies the quantity which may safely be eaten. If the mind be gay and joyous, appetite will be comparatively keen, digestion effective, and nutrition complete. Examples of this kind abound in childhood, and among easy-minded, well fed peasantry. Whereas, if the mind be harrassed by care and anxiety, or devoured by grief, envy, jealousy, or other troubles and disquieting passions, healthy calls of appetite will be scarcely known, and digestion and nutrition will be equally impaired. The fact is exemplified on a large scale in every commercial country, and especially in times of *public distress* and *political change*. Shakspeare obviously had the principle in view when he made Cæsar exclaim:

"Let me have men about me that are *fat*,
Slack headed men, and such as sleep o' nights,
Yond' Cassius has a *lean and hungry look*;
He thinks too much; such men are dangerous.

Antony. Fear him not, Cæsar, he 's not dangerous.
He is a noble Roman, and well given.

Cæsar. *Would he were fatter*; but I fear him not:
Yet if my name were liable to fear,
I do not know the man I should avoid
So soon as that spare Cassius. He reads much,
He is a great observer, and he looks
Quite through the deeds of men; *he lones no plays*,
As thou dost, Antony; he hears no music,
Seldom he smiles, and smiles in such a sort
As if he mocked himself, and scorned his spirit
That could be moved to smile at any thing.
Such men as he be never at heart's ease
While they behold a greater than themselves.
And, therefore, are they very dangerous."

Even experience must have taught every one with what zest we sit down to enjoy the pleasures of the table, and how largely we incline to eat, when the mind is free, unburdened, and joyous, compared with the little attention we bestow on our meals when we are overwhelmed with anxiety, or have the whole energies of the mind concentrated on some important scheme. There cannot be a doubt, indeed, that the over exertion and excitement, or absolute inertness of the mind, in which sedentary people are generally immersed, contribute greatly, along with the want of muscular exercise in the open air, to impair the tone of the digestive organs. In this way, as it is not less justly than forcibly remarked by Dr. Caldwell, "dyspepsy commences, perhaps as often in the brain as in the stomach. Possibly oftener. That this is true of the disease in Europe, will scarcely be denied, after a fair examination of the facts connected with it. It is there almost exclusively a complaint of the studious and the scheming, who, over tasking the brains, injure them by toil." In denouncing active exercise of body or mind immediately after eating, as inimical to digestion, it is not meant that we should go to sleep, or indulge in absolute listlessness. A weak constitution may require something like a complete repose; but a person in ordinary health may indulge in a leisurely saunter, or pleasant conversation, not only without injury, but with positive benefit; and perhaps there is no situation in which digestion goes on so favorably, as during the cheerful play of sentiment in the after-dinner small talk of a well-assorted circle. The nervous stimulus sent

to the stomach, is then of the most healthy and invigorating description; and even the dyspeptic, if on his guard against a heavy meal, forgets his woes amid the unwonted vigor of his functions.

FASHIONABLE EATING.—One of the most serious charges made against the people of the United States, by the herd of cockney tourists, that have of late years infested this country, is the voracity and rapidity with which the Americans eat. To this charge we must plead guilty. We *do* eat with a despatch that may well astonish any but a native; or rather, we bolt our food, at the most imminent hazard of suffocation, an event that indeed is not of unfrequent occurrence among us. Teeth were given man for mastication, and the stomach for digestion;—but we swallow our food whole, and charge the stomach with the double office of maceration and digestion. Is it to be wondered at, that the arch fiend dyspepsia stalks among us, numbering as his victims many of those we are the most loath to lose, palsyng their efforts, and making life a burden? That we are in a fault in this matter, few will be disposed to deny; that an error so fatal to the proper performance of the vital functions should be corrected, is equally evident; not however by extending the time of our meals to two or three hours, and thus running the imminent hazard of becoming gluttons, if not wine-bibbers, but by allowing time to prepare our food by thorough mastication for healthy and nutritive digestion.—[Genesee Farmer.]

REMARKABLE PHENOMENON.—A somewhat rare and remarkable phenomenon was observed in the neighborhood of Chelmsford on Sunday last; and as the principles upon which its appearances depend are similar to those which have produced the spectres of Brocken, Sonter Fell, and the Fata Morgana of Sicily, it may not be uninteresting to explain them. The morning of the 22d ult. had been fine and clear, but about 12 o'clock a dense mist came on from the east. The horizontal line in this direction was a distance of five miles from where the spectator stood, and which, at the time of the appearance, was rendered invisible. But before the sun had become enveloped, his rays were reflected in the direction whence the mist arose, and those objects which were situated nearly at the boundary of vision were brought to within ten minutes' walk from the spot where they were observed. Now, as the moon at her juncture had just entered her third quarter, and as her changes exert considerable influence on the earth's atmosphere, it is more than probable that the air at a great height was at a great rarity, while that nearer the surface was unusually dense. It is to these two unequal states that we are to attribute the appearance, as a refrangibility of the rays of light is produced thereby, and the variety of spectres which are seen merely depend upon local circumstances.—[English paper.]

WHAT A BROTHERHOOD.—Dr. Caldwell, of the Transylvania University, says, there are but three animals that can abide Tobacco, viz: the African rock goat, the most loathsome animal on the earth—the foul tobacco worm—and the rational creature, MAN.

THE TRIAL OF DR. FROST.

[The following letter written by the editor of the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel, shows the manner in which the late trial at New York was conducted.—We copy it as matter of history.]

New York, December 27, 1837.

FRIEND COATES:—The trial of Dr. Frost, after a continuance of ten days, has been brought to a close. The jury, as you have no doubt understood, returned a verdict of *guilty*. This has excited unusual astonishment—not only among the Thomsonians, but the medical faculty themselves. No one can understand why conviction should have followed in this case, when it was clearly proven that Dr. Cheeseman himself was the murderer of young French. But there has been foul work; the medical faculty, in one unbroken phalanx, were leagued against us; and every effort was made to put down the Thomsonian system. As Mr. Morrill eloquently observed, “King Prejudice sat upon the throne, reigning triumphant;” and it was almost impossible that justice should have been dealt out to the Thomsonians. Recorder Riker, who is probably seventy years of age, and evidently in his dotage, compared us with almost every species of fanatics; and was so grossly indelicate in his remarks, in the progress of his charge, that a number of ladies immediately left the court room. Mr. Phoenix, the district attorney, almost begged a verdict at the hands of the jury; he told them that in the event of conviction, the punishment need not be more than a fine of \$10. Was this honorable—was this just? But the great object was the conviction of Dr. Frost; no enmity was entertained towards him on the part of any one, but it was thought by letting him escape, that the Thomsonian system would take wings and spread itself in every direction throughout the United States. The language of the medical gentlemen in this city was—“Convict Dr. Frost, or you ruin us forever!” But notwithstanding the verdict, as it now stands recorded, the system has received an irresistible impulse. Dr. Frost is literally overrun with patients. The diseased, the maimed, the crippled of New York, seem to be pouring into his infirmary in one general current. I conversed with one of his patients yesterday who had been under the treatment of Dr. Cheeseman for two years without receiving any benefit. The unfortunate invalid fled from the persecutor, and sought refuge with the persecuted. And so it will be with thousands, now that the light of truth is shedding its rays upon the community.

I have spoken of the prejudices of Recorder Riker. This was not to be wondered at. Dr. McNevis, the politician is his brother in law; and two other medical gentlemen, as I understand, have married into his family. Besides, he was continually surrounded by the medical craft during the trial. They sat with him upon the bench—and if the court took a recess for a moment, they gathered around him in swarms. Is it strange therefore, that the old man’s mind should have been poisoned against us—that he should have manifested prejudices which were disgraceful in a court of justice.

Every effort was made during the progress of the trial, to sway the minds of the jury. Medical books were put into their hands in which lobelia was denounced as a poison; and the jury were observed to read these in open court; but Mr. Morrill appealed to the Recorder whether such proceedings should be tolerated. Medical students, and others, ranged

themselves daily in front of the jury, where they could make remarks in hearing of the jurors prejudicial to Dr. Frost and the Thomsonian system; but they were finally removed by the officers.

The medical faculty conducted themselves in a most disgraceful manner when any of our witnesses were examined. They posted themselves near the district attorney, and poured in a torrent of questions on slips of paper, which were propounded in regular order. Among those engaged in this contemptible business, I observed Drs. Cheeseman, Rogers, Manly (president of the New York Medical Society—himself a quack, if the absence of a diploma constitutes one,) Griscom, and J. H. Rogers. Upon one occasion I observed Griscom) who was the leader in this business,) writing questions on the back of Mr. Phoenix, while his associate, Mr. Griffin, was reading them in alphabetical order for the witness, (who was upon the stand,) to answer. Mr. Brown at length appealed to the court whether such proceedings should be tolerated in a court of justice—and the Recorder replied that it was “a disgraceful exhibition for any one to pass a written question to the district attorney.” The rebuke was not altogether without its effect, although the offenders, lost to every sense of shame and decency, continued the practice, but with more secrecy and caution.

Such is the public indignation with regard to the verdict against Dr. Frost, that I should not be surprised if the reformers in medicine should form a political party. I have heard it seriously spoken of. And why should they not? Are they forever to be trampled upon with impunity by a reckless and unprincipled faction? No! Let them therefore resort to the ballot box as the only mode of redressing their wrongs. And this would be perfectly feasible. The Thomsonians alone, in the State of New York, could poll 50 or 60 thousand votes, and these would more than form the balance of power in the scale of politics. This mode of redressing our grievances is worthy of serious consideration—and it only requires unity of strength to accomplish the object. What! are we to be subject to a legal prosecution for attempting to relieve the sick in some other way than by the administration of destructive poisons? Forbid it law! Forbid it justice! It is time to arouse from the apathy in which we have been so long slumbering, and shake off the chains in which we have been bound by a corrupt and unholy alliance.

With regard to the verdict which has been rendered against Dr. Frost, it is of no avail; the proceedings were altogether illegal, from the beginning to the end—the accused having made no plea to the indictment. So much for the ignorance of the prosecuting attorney; so eager was he, as the representative of the medical faculty, to glut his vengeance upon an unoffending victim, that he forgot the law, and disregarded its legal forms. If however, the court—the prejudiced and inquisitorial court—should overrule this objection, application will be made for a new trial upon the ground that two of the jurors proved recreant to their oaths, and asserted during the trial that Dr. Frost ought to be convicted. So you will see that we have had to grapple with perjury itself!

“Thus I defy the human race!”—*Bombastes Furioso*.

“Thus we shall swim, in spite of all “the tides” the whole world can set against us.”—[Dr. A. Curtis,

ADVICE TO A YOUNG PRACTITIONER.—*By a Member of the Medical Society.*—Take the strongest, healthiest, hard-working man you can find; persuade him, when he is half drunk, that he is very ill, for he will not believe you when he is sober, even though you pass judgment upon him in the most positive manner, and with all the awful solemnities of the Doctor.

If you can work upon his imagination so as to make him fancy himself ill for a moment, you must improve it; tell him he has got a dangerous fever, which is prevalent, and of which many people die; advise him to check it immediately by bleeding, and to obtain a specific action on the liver, and to dislodge morbid matter from the bowels, pour into his carcass, huge and repeated potions of calomel and jalap. You may now with certainty calculate upon a job, if you manage rightly.

Order him to keep his bed, and to drink salt of wormwood draughts every six hours, and to take no other nourishment than 'dilute' water gruel. He will have a bad night from emptiness and loss of blood; and for want of food will be "downright faint."

Next day you will find patient low, with slow pulse, manifesting what you may venture to call nervous fever. Apply now a large blister to the neck, and boluses every four or six hours, with no other food than barley gruel, and now and then a little chicken water.

The absorption of the poisonous principle of the blister will probably produce strangury, or stoppage of urine, but that you may remedy by a cooling emulsion of nitre, &c. The pain of the blister and the strangury will probably allow but little rest to the patient, but occasional doses of opium will lessen his sensibility to it.

By the third morning, from the frequent repetition of the medicines, and no food, for which he will now have no appetite, and being confined wholly to his bed, he will become costive, for which a saline glyster is necessary, which will render him still fainter. A couple of blisters may now be applied to his arms, perhaps with benefit; his medicines to be continued as before, but rather more stimulating or cordial.

The increase of debility, want of sleep, and his own apprehensions of danger, will induce convulsions and perhaps delirium. Increase the opium; if that fails to relieve, put blisters to the calves of the legs. If the pain still increases, delirium will become confirmed, and a real symptomatic fever is occasioned by the mere force of the stimulus of the caustic salts of the cantharides contained in the five blisters.

Nothing remains to be done, but to apply plasters to the feet, a blister to his head, and let nature take its course!

☞ This is "scientific" treatment! and, if after all this the patient dies—and ten to one he will—why "he had every thing done for him which could be done,"—his friends, poor souls, rest satisfied—"submit to the will of providence,"—mourn as usual—all is over and well—nobody is blamed—the doctor is thanked for his "kind attention," and in process of time, mounts his coach and pair on the strength of it, a nabob in reputation, as well as in cash, accumulated by destroying the lives of his fellow creatures—"according to art." X.

THE MODUS OPERANDI OF MERCURY.—The only consistent explanation that has been given of the *modus operandi* of mercury, is, that it excites a new and peculiar action in the system, and thus subverts the previously existing morbid action. This undoubtedly is a correct explanation. The action, established by mercury, is however, a morbid action, arising from its irritant and corrosive properties; it is not an action resulting from any healthy or stimulating property, for it possesses no such property. The idea, however, that the ordinary effect of mercury upon the system is that of a universal stimulant, has probably led to the present *empirical practice* of giving mercury in every form and variety of disease. It is *empirical* in the full sense of the term; because, from the very nature and uncertainty of the operation of the article in question, its administration cannot be guided by any fixed therapeutic principle.—When given as a purgative, it often salivates; when given for the purpose of inducing ptialism, it sometimes lies dormant, gradually accumulating in the system, and producing no effect until from a change of sensibility of the system, or from some exciting cause, it becomes aroused to action and proceeds with its dangerous, though certain work of destruction, producing some of the following effects: Inflammation in the mouth; violent purging, even of blood; rheumatic pains; palsies; dropsies; palpitation of the heart; great debility; epilepsy; dyspepsia; liver complaint; consumption; nervous diseases; cancers, and nodes of a scrofulous nature, &c. &c.

These effects are produced when *cures* are performed by mercury!! Is this powerful poison then "one of the best remedies which the medical practitioner has hitherto become acquainted with?" The author of the above mentioned extract says, yes;—the Medical Faculty say, yes. But nature, having placed the restorative panaceas and healing balsams, in the plants and flowers of the field; answers, no. Many of the first physicians in Europe, as well as some of the most skilful in America, answer no. The poor cripple hobbling on his legs, paralysed by using the Hydra-Monster, cries, no. The poor wretch who is racked with all the pains of a mercurial rheumatism, cries, no. These abuses in the healing art, have aroused the great mass of the people who cry with a voice, which makes the common practitioners quake, no. Such is the *protean* nature of mercury in its effects upon the human system, and the uncertainty of its operations, that, all the talent, skill, and experience of the last two hundred years, have not been able to avoid *inefficacy* on the one hand, and *dangerous consequences* on the other.

In these remarks, are enumerated only a few of the evils resulting from the use of mercury as a medicine. An enumeration of all the evils consequent upon the use of mercurial combinations as remedial agents, would require a volume, and then half the story would not be told.

UTILITY OF LAUGHTER.—"A hearty laugh is occasionally an act of wisdom; it shakes the cobwebs out of a man's brains, and the hypochondria from his ribs, far more effectually than either champaign or blue pills."

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 1, 1838.

THE LATE CONVENTION AND THE FOUNTAIN HEAD.

"It is probably well known to most, if not all of our readers, that there have been, and still are, disaffections existing in our ranks, which have greatly retarded the onward progress of the Botanic cause. We had fondly hoped these causes of division had found, in a great measure, their quietus, in the doings of the late convention—but those measures being disregarded at the fountain head, the difficulty remains about the same as heretofore, and probably will for a considerable time to come."

"It is with no ordinary feelings of regret that we announce to our readers that Dr. Martin of Salem, has abandoned the practice of medicine. His reasons for this step are founded on the conduct of Dr. Thomson with regard to practitioners, heretofore, and particularly so since the late convention in this city, at which time, all differences were supposed to be amicably settled."

We copy the above extracts from the *Botanic Advertiser*, Vol. 3, No. 1; and positively we are in as much of a quandary in regard to their meaning, as was the editor of that paper respecting some remarks of ours, in a late number (p. 77) concerning his conduct since the late convention. Keeping Mr. Martin out of sight for the present, the two paragraphs, in the sum total, are precisely similar,—charging Dr. Thomson with violating the doings of the late Convention. In the absence of any thing specific or "above board," we are driven to conjecture (for the purpose of rebutting,) the probable cause of this most serious charge. We can imagine, however, of no circumstances on which such a charge can be grounded, unless it be

1st. Certain proceedings in relation to E. Larrabee and his coadjutors: or,

2d. To Isaac J. Sperry, the individual spoken of as "about publishing a spurious edition of the New Guide," or else,

3d. To the liberty which we took of hinting at the strange course of the editor of the Advertiser since that convention.

1. If the charge that Dr. Thomson has "disregarded the doings of the Convention," refers to any proceedings against Larrabee, Mr. John A. Brown probably predicates the charge upon the very sagacious observations of the editor of the *Recorder*, (p. 95, v. 6,) in relation to not making charges public till men are tried, &c. We would like incidentally to inquire of the "larned" editor of the *Recorder*, and likewise of Mr. Brown, if that convention, more than any other body, had power to enact *ex post facto* laws; or, except upon the mutual agreement or solicitation of both parties, to prescribe rules affecting acts already transpired, or acts not specified? If they had, they possessed more power than any other body of recent existence. Notwithstanding the affirmative has been

iterated and reiterated by Dr. Curtis, we totally deny that they possessed any such power—nor did they make any pretensions to it. There is a fellow feeling among rogues, it is said; but that the convention disregarded their own rules, as is learnedly argued by Dr. Curtis, in relation to Larrabee, the fact was, so far as concerned Thomsonism, the latter personage was an outlaw, and had forfeited his rights of membership, if, in fact, he was ever entitled to any. Dr. Curtis's talk on this point is too silly to be soberly considered at very great length; for on a moment's reflection, every honest person must conclude that the test resolution was intended to affect such matters, and such only, as were specified by it, and which might transpire subsequently to the convention; not that it was to nullify any of the other acts of that body, nor to oblige any man, if he were smitten on one cheek, to open his mouth and permit his teeth to be knocked down his throat. The idea advanced by Dr. Curtis, that this resolution prohibits the exposure of any crime whatever, legal or moral, of any person, transpiring either before or since the convention, is certainly the most audacious instance of knavish cunning which it has ever been our fortune to encounter. We have tried to imagine the result of misconception or even ignorance, but the idea is too outrageously preposterous to admit of any such conclusion.

2. At the first blush, it would indeed seem to the superficial observer, that in *Sperry's* case, the doings of the convention, so far as the test resolution is concerned, were not regarded. We deny, however, that it was intended by that resolution, to deprive any member of this convention of his natural or legal rights—and also deny that any legal process affecting any member of that body, could be, or that the convention intended they should be affected in the least, by the provisions of that resolution. We challenge proof to the contrary. If it were so, one crime as well as another would be protected by it. It seems almost beyond belief that any person can so construe its provisions. As we understand it, that resolution establishes certain rules affecting the professional conduct of practitioners, to the violation of which rules only, does its provisions or penalties apply. It would be ridiculous to claim for it authority superior to the laws of the land, or to affirm that it could in the least set aside or nullify those laws. But these positions are set up, and by one who brags too of his "larnin"! Verily, he needs to brag!

3. The conclusions resulting from a consideration of our two first conjectures not appearing to justify the charge of Mr. Brown—does it follow then that his charge against Dr. Thomson is predicated upon our editorial conduct, explained to him in our last? (p. 94.) If so, we protest at once against the propriety of the charge. There is no clause in that resolution curtailing our own, nor the right of any other person, independently to express an opinion on any subject not affecting the professional character of the persons interested in it. If there had been, we would have denied its authority and derided its control. No reasonable man, however, will suppose that the convention, as a body, intended any such thing.

After all our conjectures then, we are brought back to the point from whence we started, and remain as much as ever in the dark, as to the basis of Brown's unwarrantable charge against Dr. Thomson—which charge, if he had himself regarded the "doings of

the convention," he would have deferred making public till the next meeting of that body. Judging from his previous conduct, as well as from the particulars here considered, we think we see evidence enough to render the conclusion unavoidable, that Mr. Brown, so far from wishing to evade a rupture, was in fact and in truth, *desirous that a rupture should occur*. The facts which we stated in reply to him on page 94, led us to suspect so, which impression, though partially eradicated by his letter just referred to, has been confirmed by his conduct since then. Perhaps he has taken courage from the desputation of Larrabee; but in this too, we are possibly in error, and it may be *native grit* by which he is urged on. His conduct has been so dubious and mystical, that we hardly know what to think of him—being sometimes half inclined to imagine that he studies the *Recorder* so deeply, as hardly to know what he means by what he says, himself. We are "tired of guessing," however, and, for the purpose of giving Mr. Brown a fair opportunity to state the ground of his charge, which we invite him to do, we shall cheerfully admit, that on all the particulars we have mentioned, we may possibly be mistaken.

There is one important point, however, of which we are not doubtful. Mr. Brown, in defiance of every principle of honor, without a word of real justification, and in violation of his public agreement to the contrary, has advertised for sale his fraudulent "Narrative and Guide," acknowledged by him in his notice (if we understand it,) to have been filched from the work of Dr. Thomson. For this act of moral and legal turpitude, no apology can satisfy a single individual possessed of the least spark of integrity. With us, it has blasted his good name forever.

NOTE.—One word, and one word only, for the quondam doctor and reverend *toad-eater*, whose cowardly and sneaking temper compels him to skulk behind the skirts of John A. Brown! *He never was a Thomsonian*. His present conduct, though so unutterably mean, does not in the smallest degree change the opinion we had formed of the man, from his previously craven and spaniel-like conduct.—Would he have crawled upon his belly—rolled in his own slime—kissed with such humbleness the hand that whipped him—gulped down at one huge swallow his previous slanders—had he possessed the soul even of a dog? *Never!* Go, miserable wretch, we pity while we loathe.

QUACK MEDICINES.—"The cost of advertising quack medicines in the twenty-four States, annually, is supposed to amount to two hundred thousand dollars. A peck of pills a day is considered necessary for Boston, and half a bushel for New York. On an average, only one in twenty-five who take them are actually sick—and the proportion of those who dispense with some necessary of life to purchase nostrums which do them a positive injury, is in the ratio of eighty-seven to every hundred, throughout the country. So says the Medical Journal."

We shall not take pains to inquire into the correctness of the above details—or whether they are any thing but mere *guess work*. As to the fact of immense sales of quack medicines, however, there can be no doubt. But why is it so? It is because numbers have more confidence in the professions of acknowledged quacks than in the poisoning practice

of the regular faculty—and this with no little reason, for, notwithstanding the quoted paragraph, the chief purchasers of quack nostrums are that host of chronic invalids whom the prescriptions and treatment of the faculty have failed to give relief, or made them what they are. These are the purchasers of nostrums—and they adopt the use of them only because they have been rendered desperate by regular treatment. As for the *money* which is paid—it would as soon find its way into the pockets of the *legitimates* as of others, did their superior success claim it with justice. To the ignorance and folly of the faculty, then, may be justly attributed all the evils of quack nostrums, and it would be more reputable for those gentlemen humbly to acknowledge their professional imbecility, than to scoff at those poor wretches who have been driven to seek relief from sources so wicked and miserable.

These belchings of the faculty against "*quackery*" and "*quack nostrums*," which we so frequently hear, are in fact themselves the most arrant quackery. We are always reminded by them of battles between *pot* and *kettle*—caring but little which triumphs, for *both* are *black*. The regulars know, as well as ourselves, that these nostrums are almost invariably compounded of the drugs of their materia medica, and they only condemn them, because there is no friendship in trade, and because they wish to keep the trade of poisoning in their own hands exclusively. The truth of these positions is demonstrated by the undeniable truth, that almost all of the compounds that fill the thousand gilded bottles of the apothecary shops, were originally quack medicines, voluntarily adopted into the "regular" dispensaries and practice, by "regulars" themselves. Let us mention a few of the most familiar, as they occur to our memory—Swanberg's fever powder, Dover's powder, Braithwaite's black drop, the ague drop, the Tonquin remedy, Rosseau's drops, Bateman's pectoral drops, Godfrey's cordial, Young's purging drink, Radcliffe's purging elixir, Daffy's elixir, Dalby's carminative, Mariott's dry vomit, Gowland's lotion, Delamotte's golden drops, Bailey's and Bateman's itch ointment, camphorated tincture of opium or *paregoric* (a compound which has been used perhaps more than any other), Moore's essence of life, James's analeptic pills, Bellotte's pills, Peters's pills, Scott's pills, Matthewson's pills, Keyser's pills, Speadiman's pills, Ward's pills, Dixon's pills, Fothergill's pill, Rudius's pills, Hooper's pills, Lee's pills, and by and by they will have Brandreth's pills, even if they do not slyly use them now. These pills and potions are but an exceedingly small proportion of those quack nostrums which, while their composition was yet unknown, have been at different times introduced into the regular pharmacopœia, and which under the administration of their "regular" masters, have lost the little credit to which they may have been originally entitled.

Let the faculty first cast the beam out of their own eyes, before they attempt to operate upon the motes of their brother quacks.

Dr. Curtis says that he "should have copied with pleasure many articles from our pens," (the *Sentinel* and *Manual*,) "had they not been so constantly spiced with" billingsgate, &c. Before he refuses, he might as well wait till we have sought for such an *honor*. (We speak only for the *Manual*.)

COMING DOWN!—The following is from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, the official organ of the Regular Medical Faculty—by the law's license!

"THOMSONIAN CONVENTIONS.—If half the effort were made by the scientific practitioners of medicine throughout the United States, to elevate the profession, that is exerted by those speculating adventurers in the healing art, who have neither science or literature to recommend them, there would hardly be a single quack from Maine to Georgia. The Thomsonians are busily organizing, holding annual conventions, publishing circulars, issuing pamphlets, and circulating their successes, and evince a determination to make the world know they are in being, whether any one employs them or not. One of their periodicals, which has an extensive circulation, contains double the number of original reported cases which are found in our pages. But the course they are pursuing is admirable, for it tends to improve them individually; yet unless a counteracting influence is put in motion, there is reason to fear that in the interior of the country they will eventually become the dominant party."

"To elevate the profession." Does Dr. Smith (the editor of the Journal,) mean to insinuate or to confess by this that "*the profession*" is *degraded*? The words seem to imply as much; and if it be so, we shall begin to have a ray of hope for some of them. We believe Dr. Smith to be mistaken, however, as to the course necessary for his "scientific" brethren to pursue in order to "elevate the profession," to a level with Thomsonism. All the "effort" in the world will fail them, until they learn really to do what they *profess* they are able to do. Look at the weekly accounts of deaths in this city, chiefly under the management of "*scientific practitioners*." The majority of these deaths are stated by the "scientific practitioners" to be occasioned by diseases which they profess to be able to cure. Why, then, do they not cure them? *They know not how to do it!* Yes, Dr. Smith, when the records of "scientific" practice, like those of our empirical friend, CLARK, (118 Pleasant-street,) can boast of *four thousand cures to a single death*, THEN may you "elevate the profession,"—but not till then, let your "efforts" be what they may!

"Speculating adventurers," &c. The concluding part of your first sentence, is rather harsh, doctor; but we will candidly and openly confess to you our conviction that, so far as very many persons professing to practise as Thomsonians are concerned, there is by far too much truth in the appellation which you bestow on them. We have thought, before this, that the practitioners were in fact decidedly the most ignorant portion of the Thomsonian community; and we would rather, upon any occasion, trust the exposition of our system to non-practitioners, selected at hap-hazard, than to nine tenths of our practitioners! Will you have the honesty to deal as candidly with the public as we do, doctor?—In all revolutions there is a season of unavoidable confusion, when men who possess an enlarged share of audacious insolence, may by dint of blustering, elevate themselves at the expense of unobtrusive merit. Thus is it with Thomsonism at this moment; there are many who support it only because it supports them. They are in truth, "*speculating adventurers*"—"I thank thee, Jew, for teaching me that word,"—and we are determined to rid our skirts of their encumbrance as fast as we can. The enmity of many of them is preferable to their friendship, for at best they retard our cause far more than they hasten it; and would long before this, have ruined it, had such a thing been possible.—

Do not misunderstand us, doctor: we do not mean to say that our practitioners ought all to be masters in science and literature, as we understand those terms. They need not all be philosophers, nor need they all be *authors*, (for which latter distinction some of them have so tremendous an itching, that they are compelled to take lessons of "Peter Parley;" never so much as thinking how silly they appear in their stolen crow plumes.) No! it is not requisite that our practitioners should be more deeply versed than the majority of your own school, in mysteries like these, successfully to cure the sick: but they ought at least to have common sense, and to know B from a broom stick—in which particulars many practitioners of both schools are sadly deficient, so far as relates to really useful knowledge.

How do you account for the fact, doctor, that one of our periodicals "*contains double the number of original reported cases, which are found in your pages*," if it still remains doubtful, (as you seem desirous to make it appear,) "*whether any one employs them or not*"? To our dull apprehension, this portion of the paragraph is infected with that dubiousness peculiar to "scientific" medical writings, on all subjects. Do you not sometimes feel doubtful whether there are in reality, any such persons at all as Thomsonians, doctor? or is the fact of their existence, kept fresh in your memory by a dwindling of the "fees!" But we will refrain from probing this wound too severely. They mark our bump of "benevolence" five, doctor, so that we are apt to relent even before the muscles quiver.

On the whole, notwithstanding the strange "*fear*" with which the doctor concludes, the above paragraph appears to us to be the most magnanimous which ever originated with the Journal, respecting Thomsonians. We may misinterpret it—and it may have been merely designed to arouse his "*party*" to a sense of their danger, of which doubtless, from the excessively exalted position to which their noses have been habituated, they are too insensible. If it was dictated in fact by magnanimity, we will be ready when convinced of it, to meet the doctor in a spirit equally honorable. For we aim only to put down error and establish truth; and will cease to wield the weapons of ridicule, as soon as our opponents cease to misrepresent us. We shall not, however, conceal the gratification inspired by the doctor's acknowledgment of our strength. And notwithstanding the "*counteracting influence*" he endeavors to excite to redoubled activity against us, we feel certain, as the doctor says, that we shall eventually become "*the dominant party*," not only "*in the interior*" of the country," but, peradventure, the *exterior* also!

Good day, doctor.

THE MEDICAL REFORMER.—We have received the first number of this periodical, the regular publication of which has just been commenced at Washington, Ga., by Dr. James W. Price, editor, and M. J. Kappel, Esq., publisher. The paper is very neatly gotten up, and so long as it adheres to the principles stated in its leading editorial article, we shall most cordially wish it success. We have marked some extracts, but our columns for this number are full already. A notice is published in the Reformer, for a State Convention, at Milledgeville on the 14th inst.

The new Thomsonian Recorder we have not seen.

THE BOTANICO-MEDICAL RECORDER, Vol. 6, No. 8, comes to us filled with "wrath and (skunk) cabbage," because we have had the astonishing tenacity to criticise the conduct of its editor on certain points. We are held to account not only for our own acts, it would seem, but also for those of our editorial predecessor, and of the Botanic Sentinel, and of the Providence Convention! Well! we suppose that we must "grin and bear it"! Dr. Curtis appears to be so badly choked with rage, as hardly to know what he is about; but although he kicks up a tremendous dust, we do not see that he does himself much credit by it, or shows that the censure of the Providence convention was unjust. We have not room in this number to notice the Recorder at much length, and shall therefore select only the most important points, and make our remarks as brief as possible. To begin, then.

Dr. Curtis commences his present number, by taxing us with having "abused" and "belabored him with vulgar epithets," "and, especially, vulgar abuse and Billingsgate language."—The doctor cannot substantiate these assertions by the articles he has under consideration, nor any previous to them in the Manual. In later articles we have in a few instances, perhaps, in copying some of the doctor's own language, in a slight degree, "spiced" some of our articles "with these objectionables." There is more vulgarity and billingsgate in any single page of Dr. Curtis's paragraphs, than can be found throughout the whole of the Manual since it has been under its "controlled" editor—whether original or selected articles be taken into account, or even *both*. We have used *plain* language with the doctor, because we had no ends to gain, by giving to every word we wrote a *double* meaning—so that we could swear we meant one thing, or another, as our purposes might require. We are willing to trust the further consideration of this point to our readers, and abide their judgment. The doctor must not, however, be surprised, if hereafter he has a little of his own cavalier phraseology returned upon his hands,—though we by no means intend to "*quarrel*" with the doctor. Not at all. Do not, we pray, alarm yourself on this head, doctor.

The doctor next complains (if we understand his meaning,) because we do not copy entire his *articles* on which we comment. It will be high time for him to complain on this account, we think, when he has really written what can be properly called an *article*. Such we do not consider the ragged array of *notes*, which *tag* along after the tails of our articles. It would be an ugly job enough to find out their meaning, with the marked articles to refer to,—without them we think the doctor himself, to say nothing of a less sagacious reader, must be sadly puzzled.

We proceed to notice a string of 51 notes, appended to our article headed, "*Dr. A. Curtis versus Thomsonism*." (See Manual, page 57.)

1. Dr. Curtis says—"The editor of the Manual, with his peculiar constructive powers, makes Dr. Peckham say that he regrets 'the necessity' 'to condemn our course,' which Dr. P. did not then nor does he now believe." Believe what? But no matter. We did not intend to make Dr. Peckham say anything but what he did say, and our readers had before them his letter, to judge for themselves of what he meant. We, however, cannot see how the act can be regretted, while the necessity which produced it, is not—for they are in our estimation inseparable.

But this is mere hair splitting; and we shall not pursue it any further. We stand corrected.

2. Unworthy of notice.

3. Contains the oft repeated statement, of how much the doctor has taught the people about medicines, and how much money he has spent—probably without the least return or the least expectation of one!

"4. We believe this is strictly true, and we *could* produce conclusive evidence that Dr. Chapman is 'our friend.'"

"6. If Dr. Curtis's "characteristic is self-conceit," he will try and change it, though an *enemy* reproach him with it."

The two paragraphs immediately preceding, we copy in full. No. 5, which intervenes between them, contains but *four or five lines*—and as it is only one of the many specimens of the doctor's "good natured railery," we leave it out for the purpose of bringing those pretty twin paragraphs in still closer juxtaposition, so that their beautiful consistency may be more conspicuously apparent! In the first of these precious paragraphs, the doctor pretends that he can *PRODUCE*, that which, if the pomposity of his speech means any thing, is *very important testimony* that we are "his friend." Now if the doctor has any stronger proof for his assertion than he can find in the Manual, it will really be quite an accommodation to us if he "*would produce*" it—as we are truly anxious to obtain all the information on a point so interesting, which we conveniently can. We are thrown "all aback" however, by the totally opposite character of paragraph 6, wherein the consistent doctor appears entirely to have forgotten all about the *conclusive evidence* of our friendship, and seems only to regard us as an *enemy*! These two little paragraphs, unimportant as they may be when singly viewed, afford nevertheless, when taken together, a better illustration of his peculiarly random style of writing, than could be made manifest by ever so labored an exposition from another hand. On most occasions, he seems to say "just what comes handiest," or appears to best suit his present purpose.

7. Hypocrisy.

"8. Dr. C. is willing to listen to the counsel of all conventions, but acknowledges no authority in any to 'rebuke him.' He never was in *bondage* to conventions."

No doubt of your humility, doctor. And we presume, whether you acknowledge their authority or not, if they think you deserving of it, they will *take the liberty* of either approving, or censuring, your editorial career, as they deem proper. We do not see in their galling condemnation of your conduct any greater stretch of power, than an act of approval would evince,—though no doubt the difference is very palpable to you.

9. This paragraph is so highly "spiced" with the doctor's "good natured railery," which exhibits itself in the "polite" terms "*utterly false—base—knows better*," &c.—that we cannot condescend to copy it. We judge from manner, as well as assertion; and have seen nothing heretofore, nor do we see any thing here, of weighty soberness sufficient to induce us to alter the opinions expressed in our former article, in which we specified the charges against him.

10. If three general conventions *have* made efforts to establish a college and infirmary—what has that to do with you? We care not how many "colleges" you institute, even if it be five hundred, so long as you do not mongrelize or *Howardize* the system.

11. "Our house (says Dr. C.) has never been clear of patients since the instructions commenced."

The tone of the note from which we copy induces us to think the above is true; and we acknowledge with alacrity the error, committed in consequence of misinformation. We only need to be as well satisfied that we are in error respecting other particulars, to acknowledge them with equal readiness.

13, 14. Vain and of dubious meaning.

15. It is unnecessary to *prove* that which appears self evident, doctor.

16. Relates to Dr. Thomson's withdrawal of the use of his name from Dr. C., after he had ceased to treat the former with proper respect, and appeared to think, as Howard did before him, that he could gain increased fame for himself by *sinking* it.

17. Repetition of "good natured railery."

18, 19. "Deserve no reply from us."

20. We judged of what you meant, in relation to the general convention, by your conduct generally, and made up our opinion as to your real designs by various of your editorial acts of a date subsequent to that article. Perhaps Dr. Nardin did the same.

21, 22. Exceedingly doubtful. 23. Mean.

The rest of the notes, up to 58, are amiably occupied in totally annihilating our unfortunate correspondent, whose article we embodied in our own; but as it is not probable that the author of that article will feel much tribulation on account of the battering so liberally bestowed on him, we shall pay no further attention to them, than merely to observe that Dr. Curtis appears to be quite "*mad*" not only with our writer's sentiments, but his "*superior Thomsonian larnin*," also, as he classifies it.

48. Contains a gibe at Dr. Thomson, and another instance of "good natured railery" respecting ourselves, which is very afflicting.

"49. We have received direct and positive assurances that several of the members of that convention considered the resolution against us entirely unjust and uncalled for. Will the Manual please say whether any man spoke in our defence, and whether the votes were all *for* the resolution? Why did they not employ a reporter? *We know!*" [Do ye?—the Old Nick!!!]

It is quite possible that Dr. Curtis may have received the assurances of which he speaks, as there were a few men in that convention—judging from their conduct since—who would do almost any thing dishonorable: perhaps even to assembling there under the pretence of becoming "reconciled" to Doctor Thomson, that they might, as his accredited agents, pursue their fraudulent projects with greater facility. Nevertheless, we also have been *assured* that the resolution of censure against the editor of the Recorder was passed *unanimously*—of course that the "votes were all *for* the resolution." On the resolution which passed immediately afterwards, respecting periodicals, considerable discussion occurred; and the fact that it did not mention certain papers of doubtful integrity, is sufficient to explain why they are now all barking at our heels.

50. A tissue of vulgarity and egotism unalloyed by one syllable of decency—unworthy of even Dr. Curtis.

51. And happily the last. In sentiment it is almost as low as the note which precedes it, but still it demands some notice at our hands. Having, however, already made this notice a great deal longer than we intended at its commencement, we are compelled to suspend any further remarks for the present—it may be, altogether.

AN EXPOSE OF LARRABEE AND COMPANY.—On receiving a pamphlet recently published by Larrabee & Co. we requested Dr. Thomson to furnish us certain data for private use. He immediately with his own hand prepared the following, which we think it best to publish, for the information of the public.

I was much astonished at what might be called a novel exhibition of a set of men claiming any degree of honesty, and especially being friends or quakers, in endeavoring to protect that moth of the earth, E. Larrabee, when his true character is known to them, and his conduct condemned by the Convention at Richmond, and when a committee of said Convention awarded me five hundred dollars, which he agreed to pay in two annual instalments, for trespasses on me previously committed. I silently waited for the fulfilment of his promises to the full expiration of the time he agreed to. During these two years said Larrabee has been aggravating his trespasses in counterfeiting my medicine and using my name in vending them, as his name would be but a nuisance to those acquainted with his impositions. Thus has he continued his abuses on me and on the public, until he boasts of having the largest stock of botanic Thomsonian medicine in the United States, and palmed off his pillage on the public in my name and to his own profit, and I know not what risk on the lives and health of those who receive it as medicine prepared by me, or under my inspection. O shame, where is thy blush!

What Quakers have interfered with the rights of Dr. Thomson? Answer: Horton Howard, Ward Sears, E. Larrabee, Michael Lamb, H. Winchester and others—see "report of committee of correspondence and committee of inspection"—of what, surely: that Larrabee makes good counterfeit Thomsonian medicine by their order! Here are their names and date: P. Reigart, L. Frailey, Michael Lamb, Robert Neilson, W. J. Alcock, T. H. Birkey, E. Needles, committee of correspondence. George Evans, Hugh Devalin, Folger Pope, Shiply Lester, Mauldin Perine, committee of inspection. Attest, Joseph Walker, secretary. Baltimore, Md., Dec. 9, 1837.

From whence did these committees originate? We must suppose that they arose phoenix like from the old society, of which I was the founder. That society was discontinued without my consent, for the purpose, as I suppose, of getting rid of a board of trustees appointed by said society and myself, to settle a quarrel between Ward Sears and John M. Williams, which had become serious. In February 1833, on my return from the Convention at Columbus, Ohio, I was beset by said Sears and Williams, to do something for a reconciliation. The society was called together, I attended with them, a committee of seven was appointed to consult, settle disputes, inspect medicine, and fix prices. I agreed to the appointment, settled the business, and returned to Boston. I soon had a letter that Sears and Williams had revolted from the contract, and that I must make some other arrangement. (I was satisfied that E. Larrabee was the cause.) I went to a notary office and made a firm of the committee and Sears and Williams, nine in the whole, and revoked all agencies previously given, and sent that on to them. The next information was that Sears and Williams had deserted the concern, and left the committee, and made themselves a separate concern. They had no

connection with me, as agents, after leaving the concern, as all other agencies were revoked. At this time it appears that Larrabee and Sears entered into their firm, called Ward Sears & Co., from whence originated all the subsequent mystery and iniquity. Here commences the wholesale game of trespass on my rights; here commenced the steam *last* manufactory turned into a mill to grind, imitate, and counterfeit Thomson's medicine; and to deceive the public and make rapid sale of this counterfeit trash, they advertised, and put on their signs and labels, "Ward Sears & Co., Agents for Dr. S. Thomson." And after their last factory and counterfeit medicine mill was burnt, this firm advertised a large stock of Thomsonian medicine on hand not burnt, which supplied his market until the Phoenix now standing had arisen from the ashes of the old last factory.

From whence originated this Phoenix Friendly Botanic Thomsonian Society, with its committee of correspondence, and five committees of inspection? Surely from the ashes of the old Friendly Botanic Society, of which I was a member, and took an active part in trying to have a respectable society. But alas, that society is dead, and the phoenix which has arisen from its ashes—(like the Dutchman's society, my sheep have all become goats)—instead of being a Friendly Botanic Thomsonian Society of Maryland, is Larrabee's hostile, intriguing, opposition counterfeiting society; his committees of correspondence and inspection to the contrary notwithstanding.

The question arises how came the old society broken up and the phoenix to arise out of its ashes? I know of no other reason than to abandon the firm of mine, which the society and myself established, who were to remain under the control of the society. But by killing that society the control of the same would cease. In this way arose both phoenix mill and society. I was notified and invited to partake in the deliberations. I did attend one meeting of the new society, and was grossly insulted by some of the members, in dictating me who I must appoint agents, that I must appoint Ward Sears & Co. But I knew of no such company.

The habits of said Sears are too well known to need comment, and his partner was worse, and so continues, worse and worse.

A committee, as they purported to be, was sent to me by the society, for proposals to settle the difficulties existing between Sears, Larrabee and myself. I made as fair proposals as I would ask others to make to me. I offered to leave all the difficulties and disputes to three men, and abide their judgment. I received no answer, but the insult of silence. I was after this invited to meet with them: I declined, as I considered one insult sufficient for one society called by my name. I learned that a plot was laid that if I refused to make agents of Sears and Larrabee, that the society would do it themselves, in defiance of my rights, which I suppose they did do, and if I had been present they would have done it before my face, and passed their resolutions, and appointed their delegates to go to the convention subsequently held at Richmond.

On our way to that convention, Dr. Hersey of Ohio, accompanied us. When entering the boat, a quaker assured me that there must be a "revolution." On the way, the proceedings of the previous meeting, with their resolutions, printed and published, without giving me notice, were scattered about. After ar-

riving at Richmond, on balloting for President of the Convention, Mr. Pierce was chosen—scattering votes one for Dr. Hersey and one for Michael Lamb. If one voted for the other, no matter. They did not accomplish the "revolution," as A. P. prophesied, as E. L. wanted, and as M. L. would have had it. Turned pirates on their benefactor, but defeated in their attempts, they sued for peace. Seven were appointed as referees. After a full hearing, five hundred dollars were awarded to me for past trespasses, signed by both parties, with a contract for an agency for one year. When we arrived at Baltimore, the agency was made out and offered to Larrabee, but was refused by him. I waited for the fulfilment of his promise until the time had fully expired, before I exposed him to public contempt, with two years' load of trespasses on his head.

After hearing all the foregoing facts, will the public say that the Providence Convention condemned him, without trial, unjustly? Who, I would ask, will not say that his conduct has not merited four-fold punishment and penalty? Then let him appeal to a higher tribunal, where he can have perfect justice done him (even if he is *hanged*), agreeable to the laws of his country. Here we leave him in his preparation chamber, until we have visited the main lodge of correspondence and inspection. I can only reply to them as did St. Paul to the Galatians: "O, foolish Galatians! who hath bewitched you that you obey not the truth!" So in the present case, we might exclaim, in our surprise, O, wicked inhabitants of Baltimore, who hath bewitched you that you would justify twelve men in taking the property of Dr. Thomson and giving it to E. Larrabee, without compensation—loaning him the Doctor's name for his and their speculation—telling the public that you gave Larrabee liberty to make and sell medicine according to Thomson's Guide to Health? Do they practice on the old maxim, "Give an inch and take an ell?" What was the inch which they bought? They bought the right only to prepare medicines for themselves and families, but not to sell. Look at the conscience of these Christians! Could not a gang of pirates form themselves into a society, styling themselves a nation, and pirate all the coast, and escape the law and justice as in the present case? or if I had a flock of sheep and sold one of them to Larrabee and his company, would it give him liberty to take, kill, or sell all he could, for his and their benefit? Is not the thief and the partaker equally guilty?

Notwithstanding their cry of monopoly, and our fathers fighting for liberty, with all their zeal in searching for the mote in Thomson's eye, they did not behold the beam in their own; but this was perceived by the Richmond Convention, and their delegates were highly reprimanded for their conduct in appointing or revoking agencies of mine—enjoining on them to retrace their steps, which they promised at Richmond they would do, as well as afterwards on their return, as soon as they arrived at Baltimore. Michael Lamb in particular—has he done it? (See report of committee.) No, I think he has not regarded his promise so solemnly entered into on board the boat, while returning to Baltimore.

O Friends, Friends, look and weep over some of your brethren, who appear as wolves in sheep's clothing, deceiving many.

Boston, Jan. 20, 1838. SAMUEL THOMSON.

INSOLENCE AND COWARDICE.—We observe in the *Botanico-Medical Recorder* an article purporting to be copied from the *Botanic Advocate*, which contains sundry remarkably wise strictures in relation to the Providence convention (at which the reputed father of the article was ashamed to show himself,) Larabee, Curtis and Company, the *Manual*, and so forth. The editor, or the reputed editor, of that paper comes out, as any body who knows his character, would naturally suppose he would, in favor of that horde of knaves, mongrels, and quacks, who are endeavoring to prostitute Thomsonism to their own base purposes, and to snatch a knowledge of it from the possession of the people. We would not have wasted a word upon such a mean-spirited puppy as is this echo of Dr. Curtis, had he dared to send us his paper containing his article. This, however, he did not dare to do, and he has consequently secured his first and (we hope) last honor from our hand. While hold of matter, we may as well correct one of the most important falsehoods, (to adopt the choice phraseology of Dr. Pond-lily!) The "*Advocate*" says—

"Dr. J. A. Brown, of Providence, R. I., has been published to the world, for two or three years past, as an impostor, wholly unworthy the confidence of the public. His medicines were called *cheat* medicines, and he denounced as a trespasser upon the rights of others. Well, what is the result? * * * This trespasser—this dishonest, swindling fellow—this impostor and vagabond—this *marketer* and ignoramus—has what? Why he has been again appointed Dr. Thomson's Agent!"

We copy this extract, for the purpose of assuring the public, that the statement contained in the last sentence is totally and unqualifiedly, if not willfully, incorrect. Mr. Brown is *not* an agent of Dr. Thomson, and has not been appointed such since the convention, as the "*Advocate*," without the least particle of authority, has taken the liberty to assert.

"LARNIN, SKILL AND SCIENCE."—We think the apology of Dr. Curtis, for the errors in his book on obstetrics, rather unsatisfactory,—particularly so, because, as a sort of offset to his own, he seizes on certain errors of the printer, in Mr. Mattson's article, which the latter could not correct on account of absence, but which he noticed in the *Sentinel* next succeeding that which contained the article. Dr. C. thus speaks of those errors:

"Suppose now, that, because, in your strictures on our book, you have spelled *nymphæ* instead of *nymphæa*, *frasera* instead of *fraseria*, *aletus* instead of *aletis*, *dioica* instead of *dioica*, we should declare you did not know any better."—p. 127.

The doctor has made renewed blunders in these *corrections*, which he cannot again charge upon his printer, or excuse in consequence of "not having had his clothes off for several months!" There are no such words as "*nymphæa*" and "*dioica*" either in the botanical vocabulary, or in the Latin or Greek. The doctor's "*larnin*" is at fault here, certainly, beyond the hope of redemption. These words were correctly printed in the *Manual*, p. 88. and as *our* "*larnin*" is indirectly impugned by these fresh errors, we feel called upon to notice them.

Some half dozen subscribers have not complied with the *advance* terms of the *Manual*. The publisher cannot continue to forward it to them, unless they do so comply without further delay.

WET FEET.—The following observations which we find in one of the newspapers, are not inappropriate. Why is it that some gallant cordwainer does not set his wits at work in getting up a light and elegant covering for the feet of women, which will be something better than brown paper? If we ever sighed to be a shoemaker, it was most certainly for such a purpose! And if something of the kind be not done, we shall take the responsibility of recommending the revival of the old fashioned *bootee*,—a better article beyond dispute, than *prunella* slippers. Says the newspaper, truly—"This is the season for ill health from too much exposure of the feet on damp side-walks and in bad roads." We shall be excused for talking plainly to those young ladies, who venture abroad with their feet unprotected, because they are too proud to wear a stout boot, or an India-rubber shoe. There are many cases of ladies venturing out with a covering for the feet not fit to be seen beyond the parlor or out of a ball-room. Such, we think, not only silly but wicked. They do not reflect that beauty consists in the fitness and harmony of things, and we can associate it with the ideas of suffering and disease. The light drapery so gracefully and elegantly arranged as to exhibit without obtruding her figure, is worthy of all admiration in a Grecian nymph under a Grecian sky, and when its wearer is warmed by a southern sun. The muslin robe of one of our beauties of the ball-room, is tasteful and appropriate, where lights and music are additions to the scene—but could we preserve our admiration for the Grecian nymph or the modern belle, if in these costumes they were seen walking the streets mid sleet and wind?

TEETH OF CHILDREN.—The misfortunes attending the development and subsequent history of the second set of teeth, seems very much to depend upon the condition and treatment bestowed upon the first. We are perfectly convinced of the importance of preserving the milk teeth as long as possible. Habitual cleanliness, frequent use of the brush, and the introduction of gold foil into carious openings through the enamel, should in no case be neglected. Usually, the first teeth are regarded as being of so little consequence, that instead of making any provision for saving them, the least pain arising from caries is a signal for their extraction. The violence done to the jaw by this forcible operation, not only has a tendency to distort it, and change the character of the facial expression, but it also deranges the order, and paves the way for irregularities and disease in the new series. [These ideas are adopted from the *Boston M. & S. Journal*.] For dentifrice, pulverized bayberry root bark is the best thing ever used: if the teeth are disagreeably fetid from caries, combine with the bayberry some powdered myrrh.

Dr. Curtis has so horribly disfigured our article on "*Lobelia a Cathartic*," that we can hardly recognize any of its original features. He is still endeavoring to substantiate that which he admits he don't believe. The doctor shall have the *proofs of the truth of our "falsehood"* in relation to "*Dr. Botanico-Medico*," as soon as we can conveniently obtain them. By the way, doctor—"the test resolution of the R. I. convention," was only intended, as it is understood by us, to affect *Thomsonian* practitioners.

CORRESPONDENCE.

E. LARRABEE—SPURIOUS MEDICINES.

E. Marlborough, Chester co., Pa., Jan'y 9, 1838.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANUAL:

Sir:—Observing a notice in the last number of the Manual, and a desire on your part, that those who feel interested in the promulgation of those sound principles of medical philosophy, in their pristine purity, should give you every information in their power, in relation to the sale of "*spurious medicines*," I feel it my duty to state, that in this county, there are very large quantities of such medicines sold by the store-keepers—principally composition, spice biters, and cayenne. It is all sold as genuine Thomsonian medicine. I have frequently been called in haste to see a patient, the messenger telling me that they had a large supply of medicines, and have in some instances neglected to take any with me, and on my arrival at the side of the sick bed, I would be shown medicines that scarcely deserve the name—the "*vilest trash*" that could be compounded together. I have invariably requested the purchasers to throw them out of doors. I have seen so many bad consequences result from the use of them, that I think it high time active measures should be taken to put a stop to it at once. To my inquiries as to the place where it was purchased, the reply in every case has been—Baltimore. I have seen some from the establishment of Godfrey Meyer & Co., which I have always found good. I do not pretend to sell medicine, and am therefore not interested further than by a desire to see this abominable practice checked.

Good medicines can be had I believe nearer than Baltimore, but it is owing to their being sold exceedingly cheap, that individuals whose object is only pecuniary gain go there to purchase them.

You are at liberty to make what use of the above you please. Yours &c. A. WEEKS.

SINGULAR FACTS.—The author of "*Light and Vision*" says, "unless the saliva overflow the tongue and fauces, and we breath through the nose, we not only cannot have a perception of flavor in reality, but we cannot recall the perception of flavors mentally!" Again, he says; "it is a fact if we stop breathing through the nose and keep the tongue and fauces from coming in contact—covering the tongue and all the adjacent parts with dry linen—taking care to imitate the action of swallowing—we cannot recollect the flavor of any vapid body! And also, "Our thoughts cannot change unless the eye-ball moves!" Still farther he adds, "The *will* has no power to act or to enable us to bring the mental perception of odors to the mind, or consciousness, unless the external membrane over which the same odors passed in reality, be again excited," "nor can there be a mental perception of these, or of any perfumes, even when breathing through the nose if there be a strong perfume of a different nature near us!"

"Henceforward, the testimony of the Manual against the regulars will neither be quoted or credited by us. We can't expect them to fare any better than we and our students."—[Recorder p. 120, v. vi.]

It is said "*A fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind*," doctor—does your sympathy for the "*regulars*" arise from such a source?—Ed. Man.

EPIGRAM.

[To be applied as the reader thinks proper.]

When quacks (as quacks may,
By good luck, to be sure,)
Blunder out at hap-hazard
A desperate cure:

In the prints of the day,
With due pomp and parade,
Case, Patient, and Doctor,
Are amply displayed.

All this is quite just,
And no mortal can blame it;
If they save a man's life,
They've a right to proclaim it.

But there 's reason to think
They might save more lives still,
Did they publish a list
Of the numbers they kill!

FORCE OF PREJUDICE.—The prejudices existing against the Botanic System of Medicine are numerous and strong: and so they have been against every new discovery, or invention, since the beginning of the world. Since the day that *Noah* built the ark, and had to encounter the mockery and scorn of the Antediluvian race, till the present hour. *Roger Bacon* was persecuted for making his extraordinary experiments in science. *John Faust* was imprisoned for his supposed connection with a supernatural agent in printing the Bible, ere the discovery of that art had become public. *Cristopher Columbus* was denounced as a wild and visionary theorist, because of his belief that new countries were to be found in the western world. *Galileo* was imprisoned because his researches enabled him to confirm the truth of the Copernican system. *William Harvey* was laughed to scorn in consequence of his attempt to demonstrate the circulation of blood. And many others, no less distinguished for the originality of their views and excellence of their discoveries, have been subjects of envy and unrelenting persecution. Pride and presumption lie at the foundation of all this hostility. It presumes, either that all which can be known is all ready discovered, or that our own fair fame must not be tarnished by the superior penetration of exalted minds.—[M. Reformer.]

☞ Pure Thomsonian Medicines, prepared by Doctor Samuel Thomson himself, will be kept constantly for sale, at wholesale or retail, by JONAS W. CHAPMAN, (Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson,) at the New England General Depot, No. 40, Salem-street, Boston. Also—Family Rights and Robinson's Lectures.

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THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME III.]

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 15, 1833.

[NUMBER 8.

IRRITABILITY—MUSCULAR MOTION.

The next discovery of importance to that of the circulation of the blood by Harvey, was the cause of the motion of the vascular system by BARON DE HALLER, who found it to arise from the stimulus of blood acting upon the *irritable principle* of the fibre. This useful discovery, like the former, excited the venom of a long opposition, and although founded upon experiments, was alike disbelieved, and when accredited, others were called in to participate in the honor.

IRRITABILITY is one of those grand facts which is undeniably demonstrated; and posterity, which alone stamps the merit of discoveries, will promote this to the rank which it deserves. She will laugh when she observes, that after its opposers had failed in persuading us there was *no such thing*, they should endeavor to render the doctrine *odious*, by the consequence which they pretended naturally follows from it. She will be diverted to see physicians following the example of religious sectaries and devotees, interesting the cause of God with *theirs*, and accusing of *materialism*, such as differ from them in opinion as to the pulsation of the heart, and motion of the other organs.

It is observable, that the motion of the heart not only survives that of the organs of voluntary motion, but continues a considerable time after it is separated from the body. Nay, after it has even ceased to palpitate, yet, as it still retains a latent power of contraction, its systole and diastole (the contraction and dilation of the heart,) may, by the application of stimuli, be alternately renewed and continued some time longer. Hence in drowning or suffocation, though the pulse be imperceptible, and life apparently extinguished, yet the heart still preserves this latent power or susceptibility of motion; for though unable to propel the blood through the vascular system, yet it wants only to be generally excited by suitable stimuli to renew its action.*

In the first rudiments of animal life, even before the brain is formed, the *punctum saliens* [throbbing point] shows the embryo heart in miniature; and marks its *primeval irritability* as a sure presage of vitality.

The heart of the chick begins to move, before we dare presume that there is any organ for distributing the nervous powers. The *punctum saliens* is the heart of the chick; it is seen beating while the body of the chick is but a rude, unformed, and gelatinous mass. As this singular organ exhibits irritability first,

* The heart is divided into two auricles and two ventricles. The auricles communicate with their corresponding ventricles, and have valves to guard this passage. The valves on the right side are called *tricuspides*, on the left, *mitrales*. These prevent the recurrence of the blood into the auricles. The auricles and ventricles may be said to be hollow muscles, or rather may be compared to two hollow cavities on each side, formed of one muscle; and the left cavities or muscles are more abundantly furnished with fibres, because a greater force is required to propel the blood through the body than the lungs.

so it never relinquishes it till the last, and may therefore be considered as the alpha and omega of the animal machine.

In animals with cold blood, the irritability is very great, and continues a long while. The heart of a *viper*, will palpitate twenty-four hours after being taken from its body, and that of a *turtle* thirty, or longer; and in animals whose blood is hot, it moves until the fat is rendered stiff by the cold; at which time the motions of the heart and all the other muscles commonly cease.

Boerhaave acknowledged an active force in the heart, and a latent principle of motion in the pieces of it when cut, but nevertheless attributes this to the nerves, though the communication with the brain may have been cut off! Dr. Whytt followed the same path, but with this difference of expression: he uses the term *irritability*, and imputes it to the soul, which, feeling the impression of the irritation, occasions the contraction of the fibre: the soul therefore, with him, is divisible, and resides in every living part of the body. Accordingly, we find also in other books, "all motion is owing to the soul, which, being sensible of stimuli, contracts the fibres which are touched, and pulls them back to prevent their being injured." This is the *vis medicatrix* (healing principle) of the old physicians. However simple this theory may be, and (like the doctrine of *phlogiston*,† among the chemists,) however commodious for disembarassing us from several difficulties, yet as it is not in unison with the phenomena that are observed, it must be rejected.

For, in the first place, the most *irritable* parts are those that are least *sensible*, and therefore not subject to the command of the soul, which ought to be quite the reverse, if the soul was the principle of irritability. In the second place, irritability continues after death, and in parts quite separated from the body, and deprived of its communication with the brain, for the heart of a frog will beat, and the muscles remain irritable, after the head has been taken off, and the spinal marrow removed. And in the third place it is generally allowed, that the nerves are the organs, and the brain the receptacle of all our sensations, the source of all our ideas; but the nerves and the brain are *not irritable*, therefore *irritability* has nothing to do with sensation.

Muscles are composed of longitudinal fibres which shorten themselves, and are so disposed that this contraction always serves some useful purpose. They elegantly terminate in tendons, which are braced by sheaths; and though so numerous, each muscle occupies its proper place and just direction.

Color was believed to be essential to the constitution of a muscle. But in fowls, in amphibious animals, in fishes, in worms and insects, through all the gradations of animals, of different species, of different sizes, the colors of the muscular fibre change. In

† The supposed general inflammable principle of Stahl, who imagined it to be pure fire, or the matter of fire fixed in combustible bodies, in order to distinguish it from fire in action, or in a state of liberty.

fishes and in insects, it is generally white; even in the human body it is not essentially red: the fibres of the iris, and the muscular coats of the arteries, the muscles of the stomach, of the intestines, and of the urinary bladder, are colorless. We cannot therefore define a muscle by that property which it often wants; but we may, with the utmost propriety, characterize it by its *contractile power*, the only true test; for the contraction of the iris proves it to be a muscle by truer marks than its color; and by the same rule the muscles of a fish, or of the meanest insect, are as perfect as those of man.

Such is the connection between muscles and their contractile force, or principle of *irritability*, that the moment it dies, all its astonishing power is gone; and the muscle which could lift a hundred pounds while *alive*, can bear the weight of but a few pounds when *dead*. Whereas, on the contrary, all those parts that are *unirritable*, as the ligaments, tendons, &c. are capable of bearing the same weight dead or alive.

This *irritable*, or *contractile* power in muscles, is that property by which muscles recede from certain stimuli, without any feeling, without creating any consciousness of action: and so little dependent is it upon nerves, that is found equally perfect in animals and plants which have no nerves, and remains in parts severed from the body to which they belong. The Polypus, according to John Hunter, is devoid of nerves. This *irritability* is so far independent of nerves, and so little connected with feeling, which is the province of the nerves, that upon stimulating any muscle by touching it with caustic, or irritating it with a sharp point, or driving the electric or galvanic spark through it, the muscle instantly contracts; although the nerve of that muscle be tied; although the nerve be cut so as to separate the muscle entirely from all connection with the system; although the muscle itself be separated from the body; although the creature upon which it is performed may have lost all sense of feeling, and have been long to appearance dead. Thus a muscle cut from the limb trembles and palpitates long after: the heart, separated from the body, contracts when irritated: the bowels, when torn from the body, continue their peristaltic motion, so as to roll upon the table, ceasing to answer to stimuli only when they themselves become actually dead. Even in vegetables, as in the sensitive plant, this contractile power lives. It is by this irritable principle, that a cut muscle contracts and leaves a gap; that a cut artery shrinks and retires into the flesh. Even when the body is dead to appearance, and the nervous power gone, this contractile power remains: so that if a body be placed in certain attitudes, before it be cold, its muscles will contract, and it will be stiffened in that posture till the organization yields, and begins to be dissolved. Hence comes the distinction between the *irritability* of the muscles, and the *sensibility* of the nerves: for the irritability of the muscles survives the animal,—as when it is active after death: survives the life of the part, or the feeling of the whole system,—as in palsy, where the vital motions continue entire and perfect; and where the muscles, though not obedient to the will, are subject to irregular and violent action: and it survives the connection with the rest of the system, as where animals which are very tenacious of life are cut into pieces. Whereas sensibility, the property of the nerves, gives the various modifications of sense, as vision, and the rest; gives

also the general sense of pleasure and of pain; and thus the eye feels, and the skin feels; but their appointed stimuli produce no motions in these parts; they are sensible, but not *irritable*. The heart, the intestines, and all the muscles of voluntary motion, answer to stimuli with a quick and forcible contraction; and yet, they hardly feel the stimuli by which their contractions are produced, or at least they do not convey that feeling to the brain. There is no consciousness of present stimulus in those parts which are called into action by the impulse of the nerves and at the command of the will,—so that muscular parts have all the irritability of the system, with but little feeling, and that little owing to the nerves which enter their substance: while the nerves have all the sensibility of the system, but no motion.

The nervous influence is a mere stimulus to the voluntary muscles, as blood to the heart and arteries, food to the stomach, or bile to the intestines. It loses its influence over the system sooner than the irritable principle in the fibre fails; for the irritable state of the muscle continues long after the voluntary motion, or power of excitement from the nerves, is gone; for when we die *slowly*, the irritable principle of the muscles is exhausted in the struggles of death. If while in perfect health, we are killed by a sudden blow, the irritable power of the muscles survives the nervous system many hours or days, and the flesh trembles, and the absorbents continue to absorb; and often,—as after suffocation or drowning,—we can, by operating on this poor remains of life, restore the circulation, reanimate the nervous system, and recover that life which seemed to have entirely left the body: and thus the nervous influence, which seemed to animate the system, and to be the prime mover and source of life, owes its restoration to that which was conceived to be but a secondary power.

There are some muscles which have a stronger contracting force than others, and retain it a longer time after the animal is dead. The chief of these is the *diaphragm*, which is always observed to move a long while after the others when the animal is dead, or at least, by irritating the phrenic nerve, which goes to that muscle, it could be renewed. “I have seen it irritable,” says Haller, “and tremble an hour or more after death, when the motion of the intestines had entirely ceased; and many others have witnessed the same along with me.”

“The œsophagus or gullet, when irritated, contracts itself very sensibly, and I have plainly seen its peristaltic motions after death, so that a morsel thrust into it, will be pushed upwards and downwards by the peristaltic motion excited by that stimulus.”—The gullet is composed both of longitudinal and circular fibres, but chiefly circular, abundantly more so than in the intestines, because this has no foreign power to assist it, and because it is necessary that food should make a shorter stay here than there. Hence it is that horses can drink against the law of gravity.

The stomach is considerably irritable, and when touched with a corrosive, becomes immediately furrowed. If irritated with a knife, either at the pylorus, or elsewhere, it presently contracts itself; and when wounded, the borders of the wound retract. You may see the motions of the stomach through the tendinous part of the diaphragm after it has been laid bare, as also shining through the peritoneum,

while the abdomen is entire. We therefore cannot doubt an instant of this organ being irritable.*

The intestines† both large and small are extremely irritable. When the intestine is only slightly cut, the wound equally retracts its edges; but if cut quite through, these curl themselves back, so as to embrace the parts above, or, in other words, they turn inside out.

When a part of the intestine only is irritated, it contracts so strongly there, that the cavity is quite closed, and the contents are pushed into the neighboring parts, either upwards or downwards, which dilate, and soon afterwards, being irritated by their contents, they contract, and push along whatever is contained. Very often, after the motions of the intestines have ceased, they are renewed again, and increased by little and little, by some obscure cause which restores the irritability. After they have been taken out of the body, I have observed, continues Haller, this motion rather to increase. They may be irritated externally either with a knife, a needle, alcohol, or corrosive, but their internal surface is much more irritable.

* The stomach is situated on the left side, below the short ribs. The right side of the stomach is covered by the thin edge of the left lobe of the liver; the left presses on the *spleen*. Its figure nearly resembles the pouch of a bagpipe; its upper side being concave, and the lower convex, and its left end most capacious. The entrance from the *œsophagus*, on the left side, is called the *cardia*; that on the right, where the chyme passes into the *duodenum*, is named *pylorus*, where there is a circular valve, or sphincter muscle, which hinders the regurgitation of the aliment. The stomach has circular and longitudinal fibres, and its inner membrane is bedewed with a strong and viscid mucus.

† The intestinal canal is usually five times the length of the individual. It is curiously convoluted in the abdomen. This space anatomists have thought fit to divide into six portions, viz.

1st. The *duodenum*, so named because it is commonly reckoned in adults to be 12 inches long. At a small distance from where the stomach joins it, the common gall duct, and the pancreatic duct, open into it; from the one it receives the bile, and from the other the pancreatic juice.

2d. The *jejunum*, from its being in general found empty, on account of the fluidity of the chyme, the stimulus of this, and the bile, and the prodigious number of the lacteals or absorbents.

3d. The *ileum*, because of its situation near the pelvis, where the bones, projecting like the wings of a phaeton, are called *ilea*.

4th. The *colon*, which takes an arched direction.

5th. The *cæcum*, or blind gut, a pouch, as it were, of the colon, about three inches long, and called *blind* from its being out of the passage of the food. Its diameter is twice as large as that of the other intestines. It has an *appendix*, called *vermiform*, the use of which is not well ascertained, which floats loose in the abdomen.

6th. The *rectum*, or straight gut, is the last, and at its termination is surrounded by circular muscular fibres, called the *sphincter ani*.

The first three are termed the *small intestines*, the last three the *large*. In the small intestines there are numerous *plaits* to detain the food, and allow a wider surface for absorption. These are larger and far more numerous near the stomach, where the food is thinner, than they are towards the colon. At the entrance of the *ileum* into the *colon*, there are two very large valves, which prevent the regress of the feces into the *ileum*. The *cæcum* and *colon*, besides having stronger muscular

NOSOLOGY AND PATHOLOGY.—Of what avail to the practice of medicine has been the intolerable load of Nosology, of Pathology, of signs and symptoms, types and stages? *Worse than nothing!* They have only bewildered the practitioner, paralyzed his efforts, and confounded his reason. The two thousand names of disease, carry absurdity and contradiction in their very front. Disease is but the departure of the system from its healthy state; and it would be as wise to talk of two hundred thousand departures, as of two thousand. The causes of disease are equally unreasonable and unknown. Have any two physicians ever yet agreed upon the remote, the exciting, predisposing and proximate causes of disease? Never, for they do not know them, and how can they agree! Men may reason about uncertainties, and crowd volumes full of speculation, but when the simple matter of fact is wanting, when there is no obvious and specific principles, it is a mere sail through oceans of vapor. To classify disease after the manner of natural history, led to all the absurdities of Nosology, and to explain, what was never understood, to the speculations and vain jangling of Pathologists. Dr. Brown congratulates himself, that he had not looked into a medical book for five years before he published his system; as the delusive reasoning of the theoretical writers would have only entangled his understanding, and cast darkness over the light of nature, and obscured the splendor of truth. These confessions are not the solitary sentiments of an irritable or disappointed mind. No, they have been confessed, in substance by the most eminent leaders of the schools of medicine.—[Georgia Med. Reformer.

MEDICINE—THE MANNER OF ITS OPERATION.—It is a point conceded by medical writers, that the operation of medicine does not depend on any of the common laws of matter, but on the principle of *vitality* alone. Now, from this concession, the theory of Dr. Thomson is established; for he affirms the great value and success of his medicine depends on this principle, that it is in harmony with the vital powers. As the operation of medicine depends on the principle of vitality, it must harmonize with the vital principle, or otherwise, so far from being a remedy, it would be a poison; because, depending for its action on the principle of life, if its action be in opposition to that principle, it cannot restore health, but destroy it. And this very conclusion of Thomson's theory, is in perfect accordance with Physicians' doctrine, but in opposition with their practice. Our remedies are all simple, as nature herself is simple; they are moreover innocent, as all medicines, as well as food ought to be; harmless towards nature, but powerful in opposing disease; restoring health by changing a diseased action to a healthy one, instead of preying, as the mineral and all other poisons do, upon the vital power, and thus contaminating the fluids and destroying the tone of the organs which is the legitimate and unvarying effect of disease.—[Idem.

coats than the small intestines, are furnished with three ligamentous bands, running lengthwise on their outside, dividing their surface into three portions nearly equal.

NATURAL MAGIC—GHOST SEEING.

The theory of accidental colors, so ingeniously developed by the successive labors of Scherffer, Epinus and Sir David Brewster, has been alluded to by the latter, in his treatise on natural magic, as probably adequate to account, in some instances, for spectral illusions; but for such only, in his opinion, it would seem, as may occur in full day light. Observation, however, has assured the writer that appearances of this kind are not so peculiar to the strong light of day, nor so rare as seems to have been supposed.

The retina of the eye, by the action of light upon it, has its sensibility weakened, which it will recover again completely, in the absence, or partially by the mitigation, of this action. When, therefore, one keeps his eyes for a time directed to a portion of black surface surrounded by white, the sensibility of all that part of the retina on which the white surface throws its light, is weakened in a much higher degree than that which is occupied by the image of the black portion. Then on turning off the eyes to a quarter from which light comes nearly uniform, the effect on this now most sensitive portion is contrasted with the slighter effect produced on the surrounding parts, and there appears to the observer, as it were, an image of light, in shape and size like the portion of black surface before viewed.

Now the *relative* amount of light reflected from white and from adjacent dark surfaces, is probably the same, whether the incident light be feeble or strong, and consequently the *relative* strength of their respective impressions on the retina is also the same. And indeed, the eye, especially if it has been for some time, previously, in the dark, seems to be not less sensible to this difference of impression in a twilight than at noonday, provided the darkness be not too great, so as to render all objects nearly alike obscure. But however this may be, the appearances of ocular spectra in such fainter light, is favored by the fact that the attention does not then, owing to the partial obscurity in which the substantial objects before us lie, so readily and so almost unavoidably fix itself upon them, which if it should do, any image that may remain impressed on the retina is not regarded; for the mind, it seems, cannot attend to two things at the same time. Another reason why such phenomena are so seldom noticed by individuals who do not purposely take the preliminary steps necessary to produce them, is, that the eye is usually a restless organ, rarely dwelling upon the same part of an object for more than a few minutes at a time. The design and effect of this is, on a compensating principle, to prevent the formation of any impressions of such a character as to be inconveniently permanent or embarrassing to our vision. This propensity to wander is, however, sometimes overcome, and the occasions when this may happen are various.

A day or two since, listening to a public speaker at such a distance, that, to catch his words, I found it necessary continually to watch his lips, I at length cast a look towards the expanse of white ceiling beyond him, and saw a white picture clearly representing him, wherever I turned my eyes. The propensity before adverted to, is more commonly subdued involuntarily by grief, as for the decease of a friend. If, in consequence, by the accidental presence before the eye of a proper object, or a suitable combination of light and shade, a spectral appearance is then pro-

duced (it being supposed now partially dark), superstitious persons might very readily be led, with a little aid from imagination, particularly as the idea of his departed friend is now uppermost in his memory, to believe strenuously that he had seen the ghost of the deceased. The child who goes alone at dusk is prone to watch any black object, especially if it is made conspicuous by a prevailing whiteness of the objects about or beyond it. We can easily see how, on his looking round, his young imagination may, and not without a cause, be startled into a troublesome activity.

The writer well remembers with what sensation he has, in childhood, watched the spectres that on moonlight nights used to haunt the black garments hanging upon the white wall of his apartment. Any one may observe such phenomena very favorably on waking at dawn, by fixing the eyes for a considerable time (one minute or even less will suffice for an experiment,) steadily upon a dark-colored object projected or situated on a white or whitish ground, and then looking off towards the white ground, when directly he will perceive a white representation of the object he has been viewing, either upon the white ground, or between it and himself, according to his fancy. One can make it, when it is of a middling brightness, disappear and again reappear, by simply giving his attention, for a moment, to something beyond, and then again to the image. If the eye has been kept constantly on the same point of the dark object previously viewed, the white image of the latter will be a distinct and faithful representation. Otherwise it will be varied, and might, by a startled imagination, be easily conjured into the most frightful shapes. If a person is at twilight travelling towards a hill (or even a level space) covered with snow, and steadily watches another person in a dark dress, advancing a short distance before him, whose figure is projected towards the snow, he sees, on looking aside, a white spectre in human shape. It will in some instances appear to be roving, the observer all the time thinking that he follows it with his eyes, while in fact it depends for its motion upon this same movement of the eyes. Should it, before it fades in obscurity, arrive before some dark retreat, it there vanishes, for its appearance depends upon the light coming from objects beyond it. A result similar to those already described, might surprise a person who looks up, after having for some time gazed down upon the path he is walking, the black soil of which is strongly contrasted with the bleached grass on either side.

Whoever will attentively watch the operation of this principle, in experiments which he can make almost anywhere, and with very little trouble, will, we think, be abundantly satisfied that it must have acted no inconsiderable part in keeping alive those superstitious impressions which in former ages have been so generally prevalent; and that it is the talisman which raises some at least of the apparitions that are occasionally alarming the young and the superstitious, at the present day.—[Silliman's Jour.]

GOOD ADVICE.—The following words, it has been well said, are deserving to be written in letters of gold, like those over the principal gate of Athens, in the days of her pride and glory:—“Keep thy feet dry—thy skin clean—thy digestion regular—thy head cool—and a fig for the doctors.”

MEETINGS AT NEW YORK.

[Mr. Editor:—The following proceedings having been unavoidably delayed till now, their immediate insertion in the Manual will be considered a favor.]

New York, December 14, 1837.

At a meeting of Thomsonians convened in Broadway Hall, corner of Broadway and Grand-street, on Thursday evening, 14th inst., Dr. JOHN PEARCE, of Philadelphia, was chosen President of the meeting, Dr. B. W. SPERRY, of New Haven, Vice President, Dr. S. W. FRISBIE, of New York, Secretary, and Dr. THOMAS LAPHAM, of Po'keepsie, Ass't Sec'y.

It was then Resolved, that all the Thomsonians present, enroll their names, that we may be able to distinguish who are our friends; and the following list was obtained this evening:

John Pearce, of Philadelphia; B. W. Sperry, New Haven; S. W. Frisbie, New York; Tho's. Lapham, Po'keepsie; S. W. Chilson, New Haven; William Armstrong, Philadelphia; P. F. Sweet, New York; E. Metcalf, do.; Geo. S. F. Roulston, do.; E. J. Mattocks, Sing Sing; R. K. Frost, New York; J. T. H. Brady, do.; Pardon Lapham, do.; Caleb S. Frost, do.; Jesse L. Bogert, do.; Thomas T. Griffin, do.; Sidney B. Brown, Westchester; Samuel Frost, New York; Solomon B. Vail, Hudson.

Resolved, That all the members of this meeting be a committee of vigilance for the purpose of notifying our friends to attend the meeting to be holden tomorrow evening.

Resolved, That a committee of seven be appointed by the President, to draft a set of resolutions expressive of the objects of this meeting, and report the same at our meeting tomorrow evening; and Drs. E. Metcalf, B. W. Sperry, P. F. Sweet, S. W. Frisbie, P. Lapham, T. Lapham, and Mr. S. B. Vail, were appointed said committee.

Resolved, That our President, Dr. John Pearce, be added to the above committee.

Resolved, That this meeting do now adjourn to meet at Constitution Hall, in Broadway, tomorrow evening, the 15th inst. at 7 o'clock.

December 15, 1837.—At the adjourned meeting held this evening at Constitution Hall, in pursuance of a previous resolution,—the meeting was called to order by the President, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

All our friends present, who had not previously enrolled their names, were invited to do so; and the following were obtained:

Wm. C. Bague, New York; D. S. Vankleek, do.; Samuel Thomson, Boston; J. Hallock, Westchester; David Hallock, New York; Herbert Lawrence, do.; Jonathan Lawrence, Rockland; John G. Murphy, Brooklyn; Granden Vanzile, New York; Isaac H. Anderson, do.; Isaiah Lewis, do.; Jacob Holden, do.; Wm. Saxton, do.; Abm. Weeks, do.; Joshua H. Polard, do.; Joseph Berrien, do.; Leonard Scott, do.; Hermes M. Sweet, do.; Mordecai Buzby, do.; Nathaniel Young, do.; C. P. Lefevre, do.; A. Vreeland, do.

The chairman of the committee appointed to draft a set of resolutions expressive of the objects of this meeting, submitted the following communication.

"The Committee are happy to announce to this meeting their high gratification in being able to introduce to you Dr. SAMUEL THOMSON, of Boston, the venerable founder of the Thomsonian system of medicine."

Whereupon, it was unanimously Resolved, that Dr. Thomson be invited to take a seat with the Pres-

ident, and participate in the deliberations of this meeting;—and we do cordially congratulate him on the good state of his health, which enables him to be present on this important occasion; and shall be happy to hear any remarks or suggestions he may think proper to offer.

The invitation being accepted, Dr. Thomsen came forward and took his seat.

The Committee then presented their report, viz:

"Your Committee beg leave to offer for your consideration the following resolutions:

1. *Resolved*, That the experience of our old Thomsonians in all times of trial and difficulty, go to show the importance of strictly adhering to Thomsonian principles in the practice of medicine.

2. *Resolved*, That whereas it has come to the knowledge of this meeting that there is some difficulty existing between the Thomsonians in this city, in consequence of which, we very much regret to learn that the Thomsonian Society of the City and County of New York has discontinued its meetings;—therefore, this meeting does most earnestly impress and recommend the high importance of the speedy reorganization of a Thomsonian Society in this city; and, that all difficulties heretofore existing be forever buried in oblivion.

3. *Resolved*, That we will use our utmost endeavors to sustain Dr. Frost, in the great and important trial now pending; and will adopt measures to effect the same.

4. *Resolved*, That we recommend to the consideration of the United States' Thomsonian Convention the propriety of assisting all true Thomsonians in times of trial and persecution.

5. *Resolved*, That each delegate that is now or may hereafter be appointed to attend the next U. S. Convention, to be holden at Philadelphia in October 1838, be requested to procure a copy of those laws, in his own State, which have any bearing on the Thomsonian practice of medicine, and report the same to said Convention; and also, that said Convention be requested to appoint a committee to examine the laws of all the States, in regard to their operation or bearings on Thomsonian practitioners, and publish the same for their mutual benefit.

6. *Resolved*, That Dr. Richard K. Frost be requested to publish the trial now pending, wherein he is accused of the HIGH CRIME OF MANSLAUGHTER, that the profits arising from the sale thereof, may in some degree liquidate the great expense of said trial; and all Thomsonians are requested to patronize and circulate the same.

Signed in behalf of the Committee,

E. METCALF, Chairman."

There being no further business before the meeting, our venerable father, Dr. Thomson, arose, and made some very pertinent and just remarks connected with Thomsonism; and, by way of simile, gave some beautiful illustrations of the theory and practice of his system of medicine: after which, our worthy President delivered a short extempore address, which was highly gratifying to all present.

On motion, it was Resolved, that this meeting do now adjourn, to meet again in this hall tomorrow evening, the 16th inst., at 6 o'clock.

December 16, 1837.—At the adjourned meeting of the Thomsonians, on the evening of the 16th inst., at Constitution Hall, the meeting was called to order by the President, Dr. John Pearce, and the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Those persons present who had not previously enrolled their names, were invited to come forward, and the following were obtained:

John B. Brady, New York; Wm. Ames, do.; G. Hallock, do.; John Mann, do.; John Morrison, do.;

Salmon Bronson, do.; Wm. C. Carpenter, do.; Jesse Marshall, do.—(This evening, the ladies were invited to sign, and the following names were enrolled:—) Phebe H. Mann, New York; Betsey Sweet, do.; Eimeline C. Brady, do.; Abigail O. Clark, Po'keepsie; Elizabeth M. Frost, New York; Christiann Craven, do.; Eliza Pollard, do.; Lydia C. Brady, do.; Leah Frisbie, do.; Francis Saxton, do.; Leah M. Franks, do.

Dr. B. W. Sperry, of New Haven, offered the two following resolutions, which were adopted.

Resolved, That we view the signs of the times as ominous of a complete triumph of Thomsonian principles through the length and breadth of our entire country; and, in proportion as the system progresses will be the retrograde march of calomel, opium and the lancet.

Resolved, That we will individually exert ourselves to the utmost for the accomplishment of so desirable an object.

The following resolution was received from Dr. Mattson, of Philadelphia, and also adopted.

Resolved, That as the mineral doctors of this city (New York) are making every effort to crush the Thomsonian system of medicine, that we also exert ourselves, to convince the court and jury, as well as the public, that our system of medical practice is founded in truth; and is entitled, as the celebrated Dr. Waterhouse has said, to a candid and impartial investigation.

The meeting was then very appropriately addressed, first by Dr. William Armstrong, next by Dr. Samuel Thomson, and last by Dr. John Pearce.

On motion, it was unanimously *Resolved*, that the proceedings of these three meetings be signed by the officers, and sent to the Manual and Sentinel for publication; and also that all the Thomsonian papers copy the same.

Resolved, that this meeting do now adjourn *sine die*.

JOHN PEARCE, *President*.

B. W. SPERRY, *Vice President*.

S. W. FRISBIE, *Secretary*.

THOMAS LAPHAM, *Ass't. Sec'y*.

At a meeting of the Thomsonians, December 23, 1837, the following resolution, offered by S. W. Frisbie, was unanimously adopted and requested to be published in all the papers friendly to our cause:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this meeting, the late trial in this city (New York), is only *nominally* a trial between the people of the State of New York and Richard K. Frost; but is in fact a conspiracy of an odious *Medical Monopoly*—an aristocratical and piratical junto, utterly subversive of the ends of justice, and having for its sole object the overthrow and destruction of the Thomsonian Theory and Practice of Medicine.

A CHINESE JEST.—Ming Yang, one of the judges in the shades below, sent up an imp to this world of light, to fetch him a doctor of repute and skill. "When," says he, "you come to a doctor, before whose house there is no complaining ghost, that is the man." The imp takes the charge, and up he ascends to the region of light. Every doctor's house he passed, had lots of injured ghosts thronging about, wailing and complaining of their wrongs. At last he comes to a house where he sees only one ghost flitting about the door. "This is my man," says he, "this must be a successful practitioner." This answer to his inquiry was—"Sir, the gentleman set up business but yesterday."

[From the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel.]

RESOLUTIONS

OF THE THOMSONIAN MEDICAL SOCIETY OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF NEW YORK.

At a special meeting of the Thomsonian Medical Society of the City and County of New York, held at Congress Hall, Bowery, on Friday evening, January 5th, 1838, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted.

Whereas "Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, are among the unalienable rights of the whole human family," And

Whereas these rights cannot be enjoyed, even in this boasted land of freedom, when arrogant and odious monopolies, created by unjust and unequal laws, and supported by wealth and prejudice, are suffered to triumph over justice and trample upon unassuming merit: And

Whereas we behold in the mineral medical faculty of this state, and of the United States, a monopoly as above described, exercising an unrighteous influence over the great body of the people, and causing the temple of justice to become, sometimes, an arena of injustice, where the rights of the innocent are taken away, and the crimes of the guilty go unpunished: And

Whereas the trial of Dr. Richard K. Frost, for manslaughter, was instigated and set on foot by the mineral medical faculty, merely as a *ruse de guerre*, a stratagem to break down and destroy the Thomsonian Theory and Practice of Medicine, lest its growing popularity should soon overwhelm their sinking system in the vortex of a medical revolution: And

Whereas the open and barefaced partiality in favor of the aforesaid monopoly, manifested by the court, was so glaring as to become a matter of public notoriety, and which was so fully expressed during the trial in the remarks of the Recorder, and also in his most remarkable charge to the jury, wherein he gives them to understand that they are to take the mere opinions and book-knowledge of what he so emphatically termed *scientific professional men*, in preference to the plain and positive matter of fact testimony of persons who have the most full and ample experience: And

Whereas the jury brought in their verdict as they were directed by the Recorder, but contrary to law, to evidence, and to the expectation of the public,—Therefore,

Resolved, That this said jury are entitled to the thanks of the Recorder, as well as of the high gratitude of the mineral *scientific* faculty, whose faithful servants they have been, and whose will their verdict echoed.

Resolved, That the Recorder is entitled to the displeasure of an insulted community for his partiality in favor of the mineral doctors, evinced while occupying the seat of justice during the progress of this trial: but perhaps his prepossessions are somewhat excusable, when we consider that he is in his dotage, having a brother-in-law, and two sons-in-law, who, as we are credibly informed, belong to this odious mineral monopoly.

Resolved, That the mineral medical monopolists of this city, by their instigation of this trial, have showed their colors and proclaimed war against the liberties and happiness of the people generally, and against the Thomsonian system in particular.

Resolved, That as we know the Thomsonian system of medicine to be a sure guide to health, and an invaluable blessing to mankind, we will use every honorable means in our power to spread it among the people: and as our enemies have given us battle, we will never strike our flag till we storm their citadel, and consign their *exclusive privileges* to "the tomb of the Capulets."

Resolved, That we, citizens of this great republic—sons and daughters of the patriots of Seventy-Six—will defend those unalienable rights for which our fathers bled, against every invasion, to the utmost of our power.

Resolved, That it is now the duty of all true medical revolutionists, to speak out with a voice that cannot be mistaken by our opponents,—saying to them through the ballot-boxes, "you shall, hereafter, rely on the merits of your own system, and not on the legs of the *LAW!*"

Resolved, That we hereby recommend to all our friends throughout the Union, to organize without delay, for the accomplishment of this most benevolent and praiseworthy object.

Resolved, That in our opinion the late trial has resulted in the conversion of hundreds already to the Thomsonian faith, for which we tender the mineral faculty of this city our unfeigned thanks,—and if they will be so kind as to bring on a few more trials, our gratitude will know no bounds.

Resolved, That the foregoing preamble and resolutions be published in the Thomsonian journals and all other papers friendly to the good cause throughout the United States.

Signed by order of the Society.

JOHN G. MURPHY, *President.*

JOHN MORRISON, *Vice Pres't.*

S. W. FRISBIE, *Cor. Secretary.*

E. METCALF, *Rec. Secretary.*

[From the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel.]

LETTER OF DR. THOMSON.

Dr. Frost has favored us with the following letter, which he received from Dr. Thomson previous to the late trial, for publication in the Sentinel. We take great pleasure in presenting it to our readers.

Boston, December 9, 1837.

To R. K. FROST:

Dear Sir:—I regret to hear that the enemies of the Thomsonian system, have singled you out as an object of persecution. This, however, is only a repetition of what I myself have endured. I have been thrust into prison and bound in chains—I have suffered every species of wrong and oppression, and yet I have outlived the venom of my enemies, and am happy to announce that my system has now *three millions* of advocates. This is some proof of its merits. I have used my medicines for nearly half a century, and unequivocally assure you that I never knew them to produce deleterious results. Many accusations, it is true, have been urged against me; but these invariably originated with the medical faculty, and were founded in malice. I have been inhumanly persecuted for no other reason than because I healed the sick: and that very often without compensation. I have expended twenty-four thousand dollars in the state of New York in defending my system; and it was only the consciousness of doing

good that sustained me in my struggles, and urged me on in my career.

I have lived to see State after State of this happy Union abolishing the odious medical laws, and I have the satisfaction of knowing that my system has been eulogised by some of the most learned and distinguished of the medical faculty. Among these I might mention my venerable and esteemed friend Dr. Benj. Waterhouse, who was for twenty-seven years a lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the Cambridge University, Ms. His letters in relation to my system may be found recorded in the public prints. He says that the lobelia inflata, the discovery of which he attributes to me, is a valuable medicine, and is "*as safe as it is effectual*," notwithstanding it has been denounced as a poison in medical books. It would seem because I have discovered that diseases may be cured without the administration of deadly *mineral poisons*, (for such are nearly all the articles comprising the old school *materia medica*.) I and my followers must be wickedly and inhumanly persecuted.

But time is working a change: the people are beginning to think and judge for themselves, and I only desire that my system may receive a fair and impartial investigation.

I am glad to hear that you scrupulously adhere to the principles I have laid down in my New Guide for the treatment of disease. I have been informed that this is not the case with many of the practitioners in the State of New York. They are taking my system out of the hands of the people, and are doing it an essential injury. This is deeply to be regretted; for their practice cannot be successful, and I wish the public to understand that I do not hold myself responsible for their errors. I would have attended your trial in person, but I am old, and almost worn out, and could not very well encounter the fatigues of the journey.

Remember me to my friends in New York; I wish you every success in the present collision with your enemies, and have no doubt of your triumphant acquittal by an intelligent jury.

With sentiments of respect and esteem,

I subscribe myself your friend,

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Dr. Thomson has been disappointed; he was no doubt surprised to hear that the jury returned a verdict of "*guilty*." But, as the doctor expresses himself, "time is working a change," and the prejudices of the unbelieving part of the community will gradually wear away. Let the people fairly and candidly investigate our system; and there is no doubt of its complete and permanent establishment. But with regard to the late trial, we have not to complain of *prejudice* merely; there is another and more serious ground of complaint which may be summed up in one word—*PERJURY!* For proof of our assertion we will furnish affidavits in a future number.

BLEEDING.—Let it be remembered by those who are advocates of the lancet, that when the Influenza or La Grippe, prevailed in Italy, in 1742, more than *two thousand* people in the single city of Rome, died in consequence of blood-letting. This is a matter of public record. The Influenza was also fatal in Italy from the same cause during its prevalence in 1537-59-74-80. *Nine thousand* died at Rome. Madrid was *depopulated!* Well may Thomson denominate Sydenham the *Butcher*.—[Botanic Sentinel,

A PRECIOUS MORSEL.

The following is the indictment on which Dr. Frost was tried for *manslaughter*. It challenges admiration as a specimen of *law* and *literature* in the nineteenth century.—Phila. Botanic Sentinel. *City and County of New York, ss.*

The jurors of the people of the state of New York, in and for the city and county of New York, on their oaths present that Richard K. Frost of the said city, not having the fear of God before his eyes, but moved and instigated by the Devil, on the tenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, at the city and county aforesaid, with force and arms, in and upon one Tiberius G. French, in the grace of God and the said people, then and there being, feloniously and wilfully did make an assault, and feloniously and wilfully did then and there administer unto and caused to be received by the said Tiberius G. French, into the body and bowels of him, the said Tiberius G. French, a certain noxious and injurious clyster, which said clyster before that time, to wit: on the day and year aforesaid, at the city aforesaid, had been prepared of various noxious and injurious and dangerous ingredients, that is to say of cayenne pepper and lobelia, by the said Richard K. Frost, and that he the said Richard K. Frost, did then and there, feloniously and wilfully administer unto the said Tiberius G. French, and did then and there feloniously and wilfully apply unto and upon the breast, stomach, belly, back, head, legs, and arms of him the said Tiberius G. French, a certain noxious and injurious hot vapor called steam, and did then and there feloniously and wilfully keep and detain the said Tiberius G. French under the application and action of the noxious and injurious hot vapor called steam, for a long space of time, to wit: for the space of three hours, and did then and there, and whilst the said Tiberius G. French was under the application and power of the hot vapor aforesaid, feloniously and wilfully administered unto and did then and there feloniously and wilfully cause to be swallowed by him, the said Tiberius G. French, a certain noxious and injurious drug or herb, to wit: lobelia, and that he the said Richard K. Frost, by administering the clyster aforesaid, the hot vapor aforesaid, called steam, and the injurious drug or herb aforesaid, did then and there cause and procure the said Tiberius G. French to become mortally sick and diseased in his body, and of which said mortal sickness and disease in his body he, the said Tiberius G. French, then and there died.

And so the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths do say and present that the said Richard K. Frost in manner and form and by the means aforesaid, he the said Tiberius G. French, did then and there feloniously and wilfully kill, contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the peace of the people of the state of New York and their dignity.

And the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do further present that the said Richard K. Frost, late of the city of New York, not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil, on the tenth day of October in the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, with force and arms at the city aforesaid, in and upon one Tibe-

rius G. French, in the peace of God and of the said state then and there being, feloniously and wilfully did make an assault and did then and feloniously and wilfully administer unto the said Tiberius G. French, and did then and there feloniously and wilfully apply unto and upon the breast, stomach, belly, back, head, arms, and legs of him, the said Tiberius G. French, a certain noxious and injurious hot vapor called steam, and did then and there feloniously and wilfully keep and detain the said Tiberius G. French under the application and action of the noxious and injurious hot vapor aforesaid called steam, for a long space of time, to wit: for the space of three hours, and that the said Richard K. Frost by administering and applying the aforesaid hot vapor called steam, as aforesaid did then and there feloniously and wilfully produce and cause a mortal congestion of the organs of him the said Tiberius G. French, of which said congestion of the organs of him the said Tiberius G. French, he the said Tiberius G. French then and there died. And so the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say and present that the said Richard K. Frost in manner and form and by the means aforesaid, him the said Tiberius G. French did then and there feloniously and wilfully kill contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided and against the peace, government and dignity of the state.

And the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say and present that the said Richard K. Frost of the city of New York aforesaid, not having the fear of God before his eyes, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the Devil, on the tenth day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, with force and arms, at the said city and county of New York aforesaid, in and upon one Tiberius G. French, in the peace of God and of the said people then and there being, feloniously, wickedly and wilfully did make an assault and did then and there feloniously, wickedly and wilfully administer unto and cause or procure to be swallowed by him, the said Tiberius G. French aforesaid, a certain tincture, infusion, decoction or tea of the poisonous noxious and deleterious drug or herb aforesaid, called lobelia, and did also administer or cause or procure to be administered unto the said Tiberius G. French aforesaid, and did cause or procure to be swallowed by the said Tiberius G. French, certain pills composed of noxious, deleterious and poisonous ingredients, of which said pills the noxious and poisonous herb or drug aforesaid, to wit: lobelia, was part and parcel together with other noxious, poisonous and deleterious drugs, herbs and ingredients unknown, by means of the taking of which said pills and tincture, decoction, infusion or tea aforesaid, into the stomach and bowels of the said Tiberius G. French, become mortally sick and diseased and then and there died.

And so the jurors aforesaid upon their oaths aforesaid do say that the said Richard K. Frost in manner and form and by the means aforesaid him, the said Tiberius G. French, did then and there feloniously, wilfully and wickedly kill contrary to the form of the statute in such case made and provided, and against the people of the state of New York and their dignity.

PHŒNIX, Dist. Attorney.

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, FEBRUARY 15, 1838.

"THOMSONIAN IGNORANCE.—Quite recently, a most glaring instance of this, took place in the town of Chelsea, near the ferry. A child three years old was pronounced to be in the last stages of dropsy of the brain, by three physicians, members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, one of whom had been extensively engaged in practice for nearly thirty years. Some Thomsonian neighbors, thinking that they knew better(1) than what they call medical(2) doctors, persuaded the almost distracted mother, whose husband was far away on a journey, to send to Boston for what is called a Thomsonian doctor. The man went and said there was no such thing as dropsy of the brain in the case, and that there was nothing incurable about the child, and that he could cure it if there was strength enough in his medicine (3) to operate. So after ascertaining from the attending physician that in his opinion the child's case was incurable, at it he went, with his hot drops, his composition, his cayenne and lobelia injections, and his lobelia emetics. As any one of common sense might expect, the little sufferer died under the operation.(4)

"The child's head was examined on the following day in presence of many witnesses, medical and others, and as nearly as could be judged it contained a gill of water.(5)

"Now, notwithstanding it is admitted that this case was incurable(6), the child was as manifestly killed by the course this Thomsonian charlatan pursued, as though he had given it arsenic or cut its throat.(7) It undoubtedly died the sooner for it, and any person exercising common sense ought to have supposed that it would. It appears to us that the man who did this, should be considered a dangerous man, and ought, for the public safety, to be shut up; for if he did it wilfully he is a murderer; and if ignorantly, he has probably not sense or discretion or honesty enough to prevent his doing so again. At any rate, one so reckless of human life, ought not to be trusted to go at large."—[Boston Herald.

(1) No doubt they did know better.

(2) They ought to call them "Mineral" doctors—to distinguish them.) M. D. will stand as well for "mineral doctor" as for doctor of medicine.

(3) Every Thomsonian will instantly be aware that this is a positive falsehood—no Thomsonian would ever think of making such an expression as that above.

(4) Untrue—no doubt the writer knew it to be so.

(5) Yes—the body, we are told, was cut up by the doctors, the head cut off, the insides taken out, and the intestines washed, and every thing was minutely examined, that the doctors might assure themselves that nothing else was the matter with the child, and that they had guessed right about the dropsy in the head. Pity they did not measure the water which was found. The intelligent editors of the Herald had better ask some of the mineral doctors, if there is not *always* more or less water in the head after death.

(6) It might have been otherwise had a Thomsonian first attended it; and we think it would have been.

(7) We are in doubt whether this writer is most knave or most fool,—he evidently partakes largely of both,

In consequence of the appearance of the article in the preceding column, from the Boston Herald, (H. F. Harrington and I. C. Pray, editors,) the following was issued from this office in a handbill.

HEAR BOTH SIDES.

In a newspaper called the *Boston Herald*, of Tuesday, Jan. 23, appeared a paragraph under the head of "*Thomsonian Ignorance*."

Were the character of the managers of that print as well known to the public, as to the writer of this, the task of exposing their slanderous reports against Thomsonism, or any thing else, would be unnecessary. Unfortunately for the public weal, this is not the case—as its very existence shows—and the truly honest, intelligent, and liberal man, has still to *hope* that its "day and generation" will be exceedingly shortened by the disgraceful course for which it has become to a considerable degree notorious.

The paragraph of which we speak, related to the death of a child, in the town of Chelsea, about three years old. In the account given in the *Herald*, several misstatements, if not wilful falsehoods occur, and a false coloring is given to the whole, for the base purpose of pandering to ignorance and prejudice, and of procuring a few coppers perhaps from the "faculty," to sustain a sinking concern.

It was stated that "*the child was pronounced to be in the last stages of dropsy of the brain, by three physicians of the Massachusetts Medical Society, one of whom had been engaged in practice thirty years.*" This is TRUE. Three "REGULAR PHYSICIANS" had entirely exhausted their *science, skill, and thirty years' experience*, upon the little sufferer, but all in vain! They had pronounced the case INCURABLE, and had given over the little innocent to the tender mercies of the grim tyrant—DEATH! Why, then, should a Thomsonian DARE to put himself in collision with the decree of the Medical Monopolists, who cure or kill by Law? This act of unpardonable audacity (in their esteem) was not to be overlooked by the *professional poisoners* or their miserable *jackals*, and they are consequently vomiting forth their slanderous falsehoods against the "*Ignorant Thomsonian*," because he failed to do what they themselves, with all their *science, skill, and experience*, had admitted they were unable to perform, and declared could not be done. What would these slandering knaves have said, had the Thomsonian been *successful* with the poor innocent, whom their poisoning, leeching, and blistering, had reduced to DEATH'S EMBRACE? *The public ear would never have been troubled by it.* But let a patient die after Thomsonian treatment—no matter if every member of the *Massachusetts Medical Lodge of Doctors* have in vain exhausted their *science* and their *skill*, and GIVEN HIM OVER TO DIE—the Thomsonian *MUST NOT LET HIM DIE!*—or he must submit to the charge of *murder* from every impudent puppy who is able, by hook or by crook, to creep into the management of a two-penny newspaper.

We will state the facts of this case, simply and truly, as they really occurred. The child had been sick a week or more, and had been *unsuccessfully* treated by three regular physicians, members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. The principal items of the regular treatment of this case,—which form of disease their best authorities consider to be in most instances beyond the reach of *regular skill*,—was first

a blister on the head, which removed a large portion of the skin, but unfortunately left the dropsy still behind—then the application to the head of *spirits of turpentine* for the purpose of *evaporating the water from the inside of the head!*—then the application of *leeches*, to allay inflammation, if there was any, which the doctors did not know how to do without the help of lancet or leeches, and not very well with them—and then the application of *mercurial*, or some other irritating ointment, to increase the discharge from the *outside* of the head, hoping thereby possibly to benefit the *incurable* disease *inside* of it,—and, to conclude, the internal administration of *salt and water* glisters, with undoubtedly “prompt and active” doses of calomel, scammony and jalap—enough to kill a man, much more a child. One of the medical gentlemen himself applied the blood-suckers to the head of the wretched child, whose shrieks and lamentations would have moved the heart of any man to mercy, whose deadly practice had not injured him to such scenes of murderous agony. He still persisted—applying the loathsome instruments of torture with one hand, and with the other clasping the arms of the little suppliant who begged, most piteously, for mercy, but who begged in vain!

This *powerful*—this *scientific* treatment, as has already been said, failed to do any good. The decree of the *doctors* that **THE CHILD MUST DIE**—left the afflicted mother almost hopeless, and, as the *regulars* acknowledged their incompetency to do any thing further, she was at the eleventh hour prevailed upon, by her own mother (whom Thomsonian treatment had relieved of blindness and deafness) to send to Boston for the attendance of a Thomsonian practitioner. It is such patients as this—such as have had **SENTENCE OF DEATH** passed against them by those who ought to *cure*—that are left to be **RECOVERED** by the *ignorant* Thomsonians. *Hundreds* who have been left by the *regulars* in a condition apparently as hopeless, *have been* rescued by our treatment. This is the way in fact, that Thomsonians have been *made*; and it will require many such occurrences as the present, so rarely happening as they do, to shake the faith of those who have *seen* and *felt* the beneficial effects of Thomsonian practice. But, not further to digress—the Thomsonian attended to the summons of the distracted and despairing mother, and visited the little *victim to fashionable practice*. After examining the patient, he stated his opinion, that there was no dropsy on the brain *except what had occurred from the blistering and other treatment of the faculty*: and not, as the *Herald* falsely asserts,—that there was no dropsy at all. And it is a fact which cannot be gainsayed, that few if any instances of dropsy on the brain occur, except *under the treatment of the faculty*. The *Herald* also falsely glosses the circumstances in relation to the administration of medicine. The Thomsonian candidly stated, that he was very doubtful, considering the extremely reduced condition of the child, whether he could help it. If it proved to possess strength sufficient to vomit freely, and to dislodge from its lungs the mass of phlegm which nearly stopped its breath, there would be room to hope for its ultimate recovery. He would do as its friends desired, and would help the little sufferer if it was within the reach of help. That the medicine could do no harm, and, if life enough remained in the child to permit it to have sufficient effect, it might do good. And that, whether

the medicine were administered or not, the decree had been uttered, that **THE CHILD MUST DIE!**

The friends urged to the trial; and it was made—made, too, under the partial observation, at least, of one of the three Members of the Massachusetts Medical Society, who had failed in the beginning to give assistance, and who, mayhap, was the reporter of the facts published by the *intelligent* and *honest* editors of the *Herald*. The Thomsonian commenced the administering of his medicine—which was designed to excite a healthy action, and restore the natural tone to the prostrated or debilitated organs throughout the entire system—at about noon. Within an hour, a slight emetic effect was excited, which considerably relieved the child; and towards night it made renewed, but still not effectual exertions, being too far reduced to be capable of the effort necessary for a thorough operation. Every person present, however, and judging from personal observation, appeared satisfied that the little sufferer, had been partially relieved by the Thomsonian, instead of believing its death had been hastened in the least. The Thomsonian having remained in attendance till night, left proper directions, and departed. During the night, however, the prediction of the faculty was verified—the little creature *died*,—we leave a candid public to judge, whether from Thomsonian or from Regular treatment.

For this endeavor to save a life which the faculty had declared *they could not save*,—for this humane attempt, at her own desire and solicitation, to relieve the anguish of an afflicted mother—those *base hirelings* of a *baser craft*, denounce a better and more honest man than they can ever hope to be, as a *dangerous man—a murderer*. The heart that, under such circumstances, had the wickedness to engender those epithets, must have been that of an *inherent villain—a heartless misereant*, who, for a *little gold* would not hesitate to disturb with his slanderous falsehoods the privacy of a mother's grief.

This matter by no means concerns the merits or the progress of *Thomsonism*,—we do not speak on that account—for that cause is far, far beyond the reach, and too strong to be affected by the slanders of a thousand such mendacious prints as the *Boston Herald*. But we speak that the public—the honest, the intelligent, and the liberal portion of the public, at least—may awake to the propriety of teaching those pinks of puppyism, that their unsolicited interference with the domestic concerns of our families shall be no longer tolerated.

CINCHONA, OR PERUVIAN BARK.—Humboldt says that the present people of South America have the most inveterate hostility against the employment of the different kinds of cinchona; and in the very country where this “valuable remedy” grows, they try to cut off the fever by infusions of *Scoparia dulcis*, and hot lemonades prepared with sugar and the small wild lime, the rind of which is equally oily and aromatic.—[See Personal Narrative, v. 5, p. 164. Trans.]

The above article was at one time almost a “cure-all” with the faculty.

The New York Star says that the Greeks have one doctor to 17,647 inhabitants, while in most parts of the United States there is a physician for every 200—no wonder our climate is considered unhealthy.

PENCILLINGS FROM DENMAN'S MIDWIFERY:

WITH OCCASIONAL REMARKS.....NO. II.

HARVEY "clearly entertained an opinion, that the knowledge of the circulation, the constituent parts, and properties of the blood would enable physicians to cure all diseases; but *experience has not confirmed its truth.*"—[Denman's Intro. p. 33.]

Neither has experience at all confirmed the opinion that any physiological knowledge, aside from the most common observation, has in the least enabled physicians to cure a greater proportion of patients than would otherwise have been cured. It is necessarily so, because no one can tell any thing of the vital functions, except that *they act thus and so.* And he can only correctly judge by observation, whether a particular medicine operates in harmony with the vital principle or not. All the knowledge in the world, without observation, could not give us certitude of this fact; and the natural operation of the article must necessarily be the same whether administered by one possessing physiological knowledge or not. We would not however discourage any one from the attainment of this knowledge,—to the regular physician it is necessary that he may so cautiously administer his poison as not to suddenly kill his patient,—to the Thomsonian that his confidence in our mode of treatment may be strengthened, and that he may give good reasons for the practice he pursues. No man can know too much on this subject, if he can on any other.

"PREJUDICE" IN OLD TIMES.—"Towards the latter part of the 16th century, a Dr. Raynalde published in England a book, the first of the kind that had appeared in that country, which he called the Garden of Lying-in Women and Midwives. It was subsequently translated into the Latin and most of the modern languages, and became the manual of instruction for females. The popular prejudice, at that time, was so great in favor of female practitioners, that an UNFORTUNATE physician of Hamburgh was publicly branded, whom curiosity had induced to be present at a delivery, in female attire."—p. 53.

We believe this "popular prejudice," as that learned ass, Professor Francis, calls it, will again come into vogue, when men have learnt the truth that they are far better without the attendance of these doctors than with it. How did people get through with their difficulties when men were obliged to don petticoats in order to witness them? and how, before so many books of directions were printed? The truth is, the folly of these intruders created the chief part of those difficulties and diseases, of which their books are the horrid and criminal records. He is a wise man, and is careful of his happiness and health, who knows enough to escape from the folly and knavery of this law supported craft of learned quacks.

GUESS-WORK.—"Where our senses have failed to procure evidence, the imagination hath been called to their aid. To unsophisticated observation, and to a mere relation of facts, or the inferences plainly to be deduced from them, men are unwilling to submit, as the powers of the imagination by such a proceeding would be checked or suppressed, the want of understanding concealed, and the parade of learning lost. Hence a multitude of opinions are formed and transferred by the writers of one age to be controverted by those of the next: and we are amused or perplexed, but not instructed. Of this truth there will not be a doubt, if we consider for a moment the

number of opinions which have devolved upon us, with respect to menstruation and conception, [or on almost any important subject,] the fallacy of which *it would be the business of one man's life to confute.*"—p. 176.

What a pity it is that the smaller fry of the regular kidney are insensible to these truths! Were it not so, we would be inclined to think there might be some chance of beating into their puzzled noddles a trifling degree of common sense in relation to medical practice. As it is, we despair of a large majority of them. They have learnt just enough to suppose that they know *every thing*: of course there is no room for them to learn more.

CANCER.—"Of cancer, it is to be lamented, we have at present neither a tolerable definition, nor a correct history, nor any accurate distinction of the several varieties, which are certainly known to exist. Nor is it yet proved whether cancer, of any part, has any specific quality, according to the structure of the part affected; nor have we, in fact, at present, *any other idea* than that it is AN INCURABLE DISEASE. It nevertheless appeareth from a number of authorities, that at different periods of time, much labor has been bestowed, and the most earnest endeavors used, to discover the nature of this disease, and a remedy for it, but unfortunately *without success*; perhaps, because we were not in possession of *some sound principle* on which to proceed.—It may be doubted, whether we shall ever acquire a knowledge of a cure for cancer, till a *just foundation of principle is laid*, from which legitimate inductions may be derived; though it is not impossible, but we may gain a knowledge of the wished for remedy by some *accidental* discovery.—Within the last few years, more than ordinary pains have been taken to discover a cure for this disease, but, I believe, on trial, all of them have been found nugatory and fruitless. If, therefore, the means—(strict abstinence, occasional bleeding, antiphlogistic medicines, and constant repose in a horizontal position)—used for putting a stop to the disease at its commencement fail, we are at length driven to the necessity of relying on the application and internal use of opiates in every form and of every kind, which are found to agree to answer best with each patient; as the hyoscyamus, [henbane,] belladonna, [deadly night shade,] but chiefly of pure opium.—If it be however allowed, that this disease is INCURABLE, and that regular practice DESPAIRS of giving assistance, when the disease has arrived at a certain state, (!) the trials of EMPIRICISM, under some restrictions, may not only be permitted, but ENCOURAGED, with the expectation of some casual good; (!!!) and if, by the expenditure of money, *hope*, though of short duration, can be procured, the purchase is cheap at almost any rate. Upon the principle of guarding against the cruel effects of despondency, honest men are sometimes obliged to equivocate, or to *promise more than they are conscious they are able to perform.* (!!) But as by the favor of Providence, and the labors of men, remedies have been discovered for many diseases, which were once thought incurable, we may hope that one will at length be found for this most deplorable disease."—p. 191—193.

We have made the preceding extract thus lengthily that our readers may be aware of the entire knowledge, or more correctly, the entire absence of knowledge among the *faculty*, on this subject. If they would as candidly confess their impotence, to their

patients, as they thus acknowledge it among themselves, we would desist from exposing their quackery to the community, from necessity. Self-conceit and a determination to live upon the credulity of the people, however, will not permit them to do so, and we are forced to the unpleasant duty of showing up their ignorant impostures. How differently from the learned Denman does the illiterate (but not ignorant) Thomson discourse upon this subject! and how different the results of Thomsonian practice! Let us hear him speak; his observations *cannot* be less satisfactory than those of his learned revilers, though they may be less refined. He says—

“The cause of this sore is very little understood. In all sores of an eating nature, there is more or less canker, according to their violence. A cancer is the highest degree of canker, being the most powerful effects of cold, and consequently the greatest degree of inflammation; therefore the remedies ought to be of a warming nature, as the greatest preventives of canker. Whenever a violent inflammation is discovered, it is supposed that heat causes the difficulty; but the fact is, it is only evidence of a war between heat and cold; for there is no inflammation where there is perfect health, because heat then bears complete rule. When the cold takes possession, the inflammation shows itself, by stopping the circulation; the effect is swelling, inflamed callous, arising from some leak, caused by the natural course being stopped. If it suppurates, and discharges, it is called ulcer, bile, and the like, and the canker goes off with the putrefaction. If the leak is so slow as to callous as fast as the discharge goes on, it becomes a hard, dead lump of flesh; and not having circulation enough to support it, it begins to rot. Here the canker shows its eating nature; being seated in the dead flesh, and eating on the live flesh, which is intermixed with it, causes pain and distress, in proportion as the body is filled with coldness and canker; if this is sufficient to keep the power above the natural circulation, the patient will continue in this distressed situation, being eaten up alive, until worn out with the pains, death comes as a friend to relieve them. This is the natural termination of this dreadful malady; which is far better than to combine with it the common form of practice in using arsenic, which only helps to eat up and distress the patient.”

So much for Thomson's theory: shall we prove its correctness by the touchstone suggested by Dr. Denman?—viz: “*It may be doubted, whether we shall ever acquire a knowledge of a cure for cancer, till a just foundation of principle is laid.*” Then are the principles of Thomson founded upon just predications, how much soever he may err in details, or in the expression of his ideas—for HE HAS FOUND A CURE. After stating the particulars of the curative process, which is chiefly thorough constitutional Thomsonian treatment, he remarks: “I have had under my care many cases of cancers on the breast and other parts of the body, which I had no difficulty in curing in the manner before stated.” And he thus concludes the subject: “Let all poisonous drugs, burning plasters, and caustics alone. Attend faithfully to the directions here given; honor your own judgment; keep your money; and bid defiance to doctors.”! To all which we respond a hearty *Amen!*

Mercury—Arsenic—Opium too—
Physic—Blisters—Lance—ADIEU!

DECAY OF THE TEETH—MERCURY.—A writer in the “Graham Journal,” on the decay of the teeth, quotes the following as among the many causes of their premature decay.

“Dr. Johnson says, on page 272, of his ‘Economy of Health,’ that ‘The premature decay of the teeth in our own times, as compared with even fifty years ago, must have arrested the attention of most observers. For many years I have been endeavoring to form some calculation of the difference, and to account for its causes. I cannot say that I have been successful in either case. Suppose out of a large assembly of people, we were to select the first hundred that had attained the age of fifty years. I think we should find as many teeth in the heads of the seniors as in the juniors. This ought not to be. There must be some cause or causes. The change of habits and manners, the increase of sedentary and manufacturing employments may have done something. *The indiscriminate use or abuse of CALOMEL, especially among children, since the beginning of the present century, may have proved no unimportant cause of what a clever American dentist of this metropolis [London] calls ‘DEVASTATION OF THE GUMS.’ The people of the United States are remarkably prone to early loss of teeth. It is well known that they swallow enormous doses of Calomel on all occasions.*”

The writer thinks this may be true enough, but that the statement is “too general—that it does not come to the point.” We should conclude that it *does* come to the point—and very directly, too.—But the writer having a *theory* to support, sees with different eyes from ours, and trims down his facts to suit his purposes—an operation not uncommon with other, as well as the modern pythagorean theorists. He believes that the premature decay of the teeth, so very remarkable in the rising generation, is owing altogether to their domestic habits in eating and drinking. But then, how happens it, as Dr. Johnson has observed, that the teeth of the juniors are so much worse than those of the present seniors? Habits of living have certainly changed but very little during several generations—much less during twenty or thirty years; and this fact is alone sufficient to upset his arguments. No doubt *luxurious* habits have some effect in hastening the decay of the teeth, as well as of the body, but not to the extent urged by this writer. Mercury has done at least ninety per centum of the mischief spoken of.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT.—A lady of Baltimore lost her life a few days since, by taking an ounce of the white precipitate of mercury, sent by an apothecary in answer to the prescription of a physician who ordered an ounce of the phosphate of soda. The case is rendered still more aggravated from the fact that the patient refused to take the medicine until it had been sent back to the apothecary with a request that he would examine the written prescription and the dose, which he did, and pronounced it correct!!—[M. Post,

Richard K. Frost was lately tried in New York, for MURDER, for administering medicine, which in itself is *not known* to be otherwise than innocent. P.

"GOOD NATURED RAILLERY" OF THE "REGULARS."

We were not long since told by a cotemporary, that our articles relating to the "*regulars*" *par excellence*, would have been honored by a republication, had they not been, as they were, so highly "spiced with billingsgate," &c. We shall not stop here to criticise the charge; but will merely remark, that we shall in general take our cue from the conduct of our opponents, endeavoring always, whoever and wherever they be, to give them tit for tat! That we shall in reality out-do the "*regulars*" however, in the use or application of billingsgate, in particular, is more than we expect, and in truth more than we desire. And that those "scientific" gentlemen *can* sometimes talk ill-naturedly, the annexed extract from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, we think will conclusively show,—though perhaps the severity was more just than we are disposed to admit. This paragraph, by the way, was published some months since, and has travelled the rounds of the botanic papers: we owe the Journal and our most excellent readers an apology for not previously copying it. We had dissected it from some half dozen different sheets, but like the Frenchman's *flea*, when we "put our fingere on him" for the printer—"begar, he was not dere!" We have caught him at last, however, as the reader shall see, after allowing us to remark, in conclusion, that this is the identical paragraph which Dr. Curtis "good naturedly" thought so particularly applicable to the unfortunate condition of the editors of the Sentinel and the Manual,—forgetting that neither of the individuals who now have the honor to occupy those stations, were, at the period of the birth of the "scientific" article under consideration, the occupants of their respective chairs editorial! Ah! here is Doctor Smith! Will you be kind enough to speak for yourself, Doctor?

"QUACK JOURNALS.—Absurd as it may seem, the charlatans, all over the country, are publishing their *knowledge* to the world. They possess so small a stock, however, that the prospect of reducing the civilized parts of it to the ignorant condition of their readers, must be rather discouraging. The burden of complaint is the same in them all, viz: physicians who are better educated than the editors of these stupid productions, deserve extermination. And we verily believe, were it in their power, they would steam and pepper the whole profession to speedy death, as they do those who are so unfortunate as to become their patients. It is truly surprising that fools enough exist on the continent to maintain a single Thomsonian periodical. At the present rate of multiplication, they will soon be at logger-heads among themselves—for there will be no friendship in trade, when all deal in lobelia. Notwithstanding the continual abuse they are dealing out to us, personally and professionally, 'please to exchange,' almost invariably comes written on the margin of their papers. How is it that that they are so anxious to read what they cannot understand—the reports of the most experienced physicians in New England?"

FIG POULTICE.—The most ancient cataplasm on record was made of figs. It was used for the relief of Hezekiah, who lived 260 years before Hippocrates. "And (Doctor!) Isaiah said, 'Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered.'" (2 Kings, chap. xv. 7.) Wonder if Isaiah had a "diploma"?

BEAUTIES OF MERCURY—THE "SAMSON" OF THE MINERAL FACULTY.—*Mollities Ossium*, or a softening of all the bones, so that they can be bent in any direction without breaking, is one of the thousand horrid effects arising from what the faculty conveniently call the "*abuse*" of that "*best of medicines*"—Mercury or Calomel—or the "Sub. Mur. Hydr." as they write it for you upon their prescriptions. An instance of this delightful disease may be found reported in the "New York Medical Magazine," vol. 1, which occurred in the practice of Dr. Post, in 1807, and which, as it is remarkable for the great rapidity with which the bone became softened, we think it worth transcribing.

"The patient was nearly fifty years of age: he had been in an impaired state of health for a considerable time, arising from the *abuse* of mercury. Three weeks before the softening of the bone, his thigh became the seat of pain, yet he took much exercise on foot. On the evening in which he sent for medical attendance, he was walking about his room, when he was suddenly seized with excruciating pain in the right thigh, and went to bed. In the course of the night it was discovered that the thigh was considerably bent, and in the morning it was bent almost to a right angle; the limb was so flexible that it could be moved in any direction with the greatest ease: owing to the contractile power of the muscles and the loss of bone, the thigh could not be kept in a straight position, though the most attentive application of splints and bandages was made. Besides the loss of stability in the thigh, the whole limb became oedematous, and its size greatly increased: he died in the following January. On cutting into the thigh after death, says Dr. Post, it seemed little more than a dense gelatinous mass, and there was scarcely any vestige of the thigh bone to be found: though small spiculæ of bony matter were to be felt, indicating some disposition to the reproduction of bone."

DOCTORS AND DUKES.—We learn from the Boston Daily Evening News, that a suit at law was lately instituted at Paris by a couple of Doctors—a German and a Pole—against one Lord Lincoln, and his father in law, the Duke of Hamilton, for the recovery of the modest little sum of 400,000 francs,—being the amount of a bill charged for attendance on the wife of the former, during a dangerous fit of sickness, from which, strange as it may appear, she *recovered*! They allege as a reason for the exorbitance of the demand, that they have performed a *miracle*—a *regular* one of course—and that they endangered their own lives by attending her. One of them pretended to have injured his eyesight. The conclusion was, that the court awarded the two doctors 24,000 francs—which, we think, with the News, was "probably all of 20,000 more than they deserved."

COMICAL CURE FOR DYSPEPSIA.—A New York doctor recommends "*laughing*" as a remedy for dyspepsia. The cure is performed by a continual use of it for several months. A mere smile, or a simpering laugh, it is apprehended will not avail much; it is only a hearty horse-laugh, in heavy and habitual doses, faithfully persisted in, that holds out the unfortunate dyspeptic encouraging prospects of relief. However ridiculous this prescription may appear, it is not half so much so in reality as the giving of deadly poisons.

THE NEW YORK MEDICAL CONSPIRACY!

[From the New York Star.]

"ANOTHER THOMPSONIAN CASE.—The Coroner was called yesterday to visit the body of Albert G. Sherwood, aged 30, a barber, a victim to Thompsonianism. About 20 days ago, one of these Thompsonian practitioners by the name of Dr. Sweet, was sent for at Sherwood's request, and the doctor treated the case as typhus, and pursued unremittingly the prescriptions as laid down in this system, if system it can be called. The doctor had an adjunct, and together they consulted over the patient as he manifestly sunk under the compound action of lobelia and other violent stimulants, and of scorching steambaths, and daily injections. His advisers concluded nothing could be done—so went on as before. Dr. John Davis was called in at the last hour, but it was too late. Thursday the patient died. Drs. Gilman, Post and Davis, examined the body, and testify that there was great congestion of the brain and stomach, either of which was sufficient to have caused death, but the cause of these appearances were to them unknown. When informed of the treatment however, they believed it quite sufficient to cause death. Portions of the stomach and intestines, and their contents, are preserved to be analyzed by Dr. Chilton. The jury after five hours returned a verdict against Dr. Sweet for improper treatment, and ignorance of the character of the disease. The case now goes to the district attorney."

The writer of the above is so totally ignorant of the system which he slurs, as not to know how even to properly *spell its name*. The same is the case with nine tenths of its contemners—and the remaining tenth do not know much more. In relation to the same case, we have the following,

[From the New York Sun.]

"ANOTHER LOBELIA CASE.—The coroner and a respectable jury were engaged the whole of yesterday in an investigation of the causes and circumstances attending the death of Albert G. Sherwood, barber, of No. 12 Sullivan-street. It appeared that he had been ill some time, and had been under the Thomsonian treatment at the hands of Dr. Fustus Sweet, of No. 466 Hudson-street, who gave him up on Tuesday last as past hope. Dr. Davis was then called in, and found him reduced to a skeleton, and delirious apparently from congestion of the brain. On Tuesday [the Star says *Thursday*] night he died: and with a view to ascertain whether his death might not be attributed to the treatment he had received from Dr. Sweet, the inquest was held."

The above evinces, beyond a doubt, to our minds, the fact, which we have before more than suspected, of a CONSPIRACY of the Mineral Poison Doctors, of New York city, to put down by the strong arm of their law, every practitioner of medicine whatever, who has not paid initiating fees into their monopoly, and in that manner been made to feel a community of interest in their villainies. Possessing, as many of them do, vast hoards of wealth—the price of human blood!—wielding a most tremendously iniquitous influence over the public mind, in consequence of their unlimited pretensions,—receiving the support of special laws,—and made desperately mad that their pretensions should be canvassed, their right of monopoly questioned, and their "science" proved to be baseless by even the illiterate,—they are

an enemy to be encountered only by those whose friends have been sacrificed at the shrine of "the insatiable and gory moloch" of medical mystery, or whose enlarged benevolence and determination of "progress"! urges them onward with a giant's tread to the total prostration of our abominable medical combinations, that, "like a legion of devils" set their faces against any improvement which would injure their pockets, and whose malice will hesitate at no means whatever for the accomplishment of their base purposes!

But let them be warned of the RE-ACTION which shall surely come, and shall exact at their hands a double humiliation for all their abuses and tyrannies! Fools that they are! with all their "science," not yet to have learnt the folly of persecution, which the history of the whole world shadows forth in such bold relief! Not yet to have been taught that the people at this day will, many of them, EXAMINE before they decide! No! Like the possessors of all unjust privileges, they would abash inquiry by browbeating, and stifle it by force! They shall be yet most sorely convinced of the inefficacy of both, to screen their conduct from the examination and the condemnation of the people!

Meantime, it is not improbable that many of the botanic practitioners will fall a sacrifice to the expiring struggles of medical malice. This, particularly, because those only, who are most deeply desirous of crushing the spirit of reform, are considered by our biased courts and juries, as competent witnesses! The mineral doctors in fact being complainants—witnesses—judges—jurors—it would be the height of folly and madness to solicit justice or expect candor at their hands, and we can only appeal to the grand tribunal of the people for a righteous judgment! To that tribunal do we appeal!

It has been intimated to us that Dr. Sweet is not, strictly, a Thomsonian; but this is not the time to debate that question. Let him receive our support and sympathy while he is grappled by the innumerable fangs of the medical hydra, and wait for the adjustment of minor points till he has freedom to defend himself. Let us put down law-quackery—the enemy of all improvement—and rely on the good sense of an inquiring people to sustain that peculiar method of medical practice which experience and reason shows to be the best.

It will be observed that the snares which the faculty have laid for Dr. Sweet, are more cunningly devised than was the trap which they set for Dr. Frost. Sweet they charge with "improper treatment, and ignorance of the character of the disease." There is probably not a doctor in the wide world who could escape conviction on such a charge, were he to be judged, as in this case will be the fact, by his *opponents* or his *enemies*. In this case therefore, we expect nothing else, and extend in advance our sympathy to the new martyr to medical monopoly.

DOMESTIC QUACKERY has ruined many constitutions. A dose of apothecary stuff taken with a view of preventing an attack of disease, not unfrequently invites one which otherwise would not have occurred. The absurd practice of losing blood, or taking purgatives, in the spring and autumn, under the erroneous idea that by so doing the blood is rendered more pure, should be carefully avoided.

THE STOMACH.—Professor Hitchcock says that the “process of digestion seems to be partly chemical, partly mechanical, and partly mysterious.” How sagacious! how profound! how “scientific”! Professor—“go to the head!” The fact is, Professor Hitchcock knows no more of the cause or process of digestion than a great many who are *not* professors—and it is ridiculous therefore, for him to palm off his guesses, as established facts. Professor H. deduces his sage conclusion, from the following—which we think affords ground for a conclusion the very reverse of his; and this is but one of those numerous examples of difference in the conclusions of distinguished and scientific individuals!—a-hem!

Dr. Hunter facetiously remarks, in his Lecture:—“Some will have it that the stomach is a *mill*; others that it is a *fermenting vat*; others again that it is a *stew pan*; but in my view of the matter, it is neither a mill, a fermenting vat, nor a stew pan—but A STOMACH, gentlemen, IS A STOMACH.”

“Hence,” says Professor Hitchcock, “Hence, the process of digestion seems to be partly chemical, partly mechanical, and partly mysterious!” “Damn me if I ever was so flea-bitten before in all my born days!” Shakspeare’s description of a stomach is not bad—he seems to have known full as much about it as our professor.

“It is the storehouse, and the shop
Of the whole body. True it is,
That it receives the general food at first;
But all the cranks and offices of man,
The strongest nerves and small inferior veins,
From it receive that natural competence
Whereby they live.”

THE MEDICAL REFORMER.—We briefly noticed in our last, the regular appearance of this publication at Washington, Wilkes county, Georgia.—We take the annexed from the salutatory article of the editor. It exhibits the right spirit.

“We promise not to be *reformers* in medicine alone, but we intend faithfully to sustain and advocate that system of medical practice which sprang from the *great and good* Dr. S. Thomson; whose life and property have each been readily sacrificed for the advancement of this glorious cause. The most daring persecution, unblushing falsehoods, and reckless perversion of truth, have all in turn, been resorted to by our opponents, to prevent its onward course, denouncing the medicines as poisonous and dangerous in their nature, sending thousands of victims to premature graves, “unwept, unhonored and unsung!” But in spite of all opposition, the Botanic practice is progressive. We number in the United States, upwards of *three millions*, who have either directly or indirectly become its advocates by actual benefits resulting from it. In the State of Georgia alone, there is not less than *twenty-five thousand*, among whom are not a few of the most influential and intelligent members of the community, who are closely attached to this *new practice*. With these facts before us, we feel a renewed anxiety to go forward in our new and responsible vocation, with the hope of gaining a glorious victory over the *lancet* and *mercury*.”

“The editor of the Manual is compelled to be absent from his post for a short period.

SCIENTIFIC!—We copy the following from the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal. It is unnecessary that we utter a word of comment upon it, for our readers, “fools” though “scientific practitioners” may consider them, are all of them at least capable of drawing conclusions which are *unavoidable*.

“QUESTIONS IN MEDICINE.—*To the editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal:*—Sir: There are some discrepancies, or *prima facie* contradictions, in medical practice, which I should like to see explained or reconciled. For instance, in sanguineous engorgements of the uterus, we are directed to apply leeches to the vulva to lessen the quantity of blood and to take off its determination to the part: and, on the other hand, when we wish to increase the quantity or produce a determination to the uterus, we are directed to apply leeches—the same remedial means for apparently opposite indications of disease. * * It seems to me that rules more special and discriminate should be laid down and followed * * and I hope the subject will receive further notice. **MEDICUS.**”

We shall look carefully for the answer.

A NEAT REPLY.—“How is your *health* to-day?” said the doctor to a poor invalid who had been sometime under the hands of the enquirer.

“I don’t know,” was the reply; “it is so long since I have seen it, that I am unable to tell.”

AGENTS FOR DR. THOMSON.

Ebenezer Eaton, jr., North Reading, Mass.
Andrew Howarth, Salisbury Mills, Mass.

“Notice is hereby given, that I have revoked the agency of T. H. CARR, of Belfast, Me., and that he is no longer an agent of mine. The public will be on their guard, and not be deceived.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, January 27, 1838.

PROSPECTUS

Of the second volume of the SOUTHERN BOTANIC JOURNAL,
published in Charleston, S. C.

EDITED BY D. F. NARDIN.

It is deemed useless to urge the superiority of the Thomsonian system over other medical systems now extant, or those that have been in vogue before the present period of time. Nor is it now necessary to apprise the public that the *Southern Botanic Journal* is exclusively devoted to the support of the former. We have only to say that the second volume will be a continuation of the plan followed in the first, namely, to vindicate the cause of Thomsonism and refute some of the many attacks made upon the system and its practitioners, by those who are opposed to it; to correct some of the many false statements made against it; to collect and report matters of fact in regard to the practice; to expose the views of Dr. Thomson in philosophical points of view, and to show the manner they can be put in *practice* for the cure of the many forms which disease assumes to destroy life in the human frame.

In pursuing the course marked out before us, we have necessarily to discuss subjects that will appear uninteresting to many, and perhaps unpleasant to some; these are not unfrequently trying to our feelings. In consequence of this, but a small portion of the Journal will be devoted to controversy, and as much as possible to the *practical* part of medicine, as free from the notions of former or of the present theorists, as is consistent with the plan of the work. Medicine without theory,—without system, would be but a monster in the arts, totally un-

sued to the human mind, and inapplicable to useful purposes. Although much harm has no doubt resulted to the world from false theories in medicine, yet this acknowledged evil has not driven from it reasoning by induction, but it has caused many changes in the theories or systems that have successively predominated in medicine. The mischief that has resulted from theorizing, has always sprung from false data; these must necessarily lead to wrong conclusions, and consequently to a detrimental practice. That there are many false data now, as bottoming facts upon which the fashionable practice is based, we firmly believe. To expose these, and show the more certain ones on which we rest, will also occupy some of the pages of the Journal. Although this subject is certainly of great importance, yet we shall limit its extent to a small portion of the work, because we are not writing to the few learned in the rubbish of wornout notions, nor those skilled in scientific lore. We intend to make this a work for the *people* at large; and while we shall occasionally endeavor to give matter for the former to think upon, we will endeavor to remember that the mass of our readers should not be excluded from the participation in the views of different theories by technicalities and high sounding names.

In our polemical discussions we will endeavor to always keep our feelings under the guidance of reason and never act as an aggressor, but always on the defensive, and then never suffer our prejudices to make us swerve from the path of truth and duty.

As the practice and theory of medicine must be based upon observations at the bedside of the sick, and as this strictly speaking can alone be called useful, we will endeavor that the report of cases, and the manner of treating them shall fill a great portion of the Journal.

The necessity of a work of this kind in the South has long been felt by all the friends of the system in this part of our republic, and it is deemed superfluous to urge it here.

TERMS.—The Southern Botanic Journal will be issued every other Saturday, in Charleston, S.C., each number containing 16 octavo pages on a super-royal sheet. The cover will serve as a wrapper for each number, and of course will not be subject to any postage. Subscription price two dollars and fifty cents per annum, (invariably,) viz: for twenty-six numbers—making a volume of 416 pages, with a title page and index alphabetically arranged.

Editors who are disposed will please give the above a few insertions. D. F. NARDIN, J. L. WOOD, } Pub-
& WM. CARLISLE. } lishers.

P.S.—The friends of the Botanic system, are respectfully solicited to lend their aid in procuring subscriptions for the Journal. December 23, 1837.

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THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME III.]

BOSTON, MARCH 1, 1838.

[NUMBER 9.]

[From the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal.]

ACCOUNT OF THE RUSSIAN VAPOR BATH,

BY T. S. TRAILL, M. D.

The existence in Hainburgh of two establishments where the Russian Vapor Bath is used, brought to my recollection the description given by Acerbi, and other travellers, of the intense heat and sudden transition to cold, so much relished by the natives of Northern Europe, raised my curiosity to experience in my own person the effects of this singular species of bathing. I was further induced to take this step from finding myself suddenly oppressed with a violent feverish cold, which raised my pulse considerably above 100 degrees, and rendered me little able to join the public dinner table in the Apollo Sael.

Accompanied by two friends who wished to make the same experiment, I repaired to the ALEXANDERBAD, which is under the direction of its proprietor, a Jewish physician, who had liberally opened it gratuitously to the members of the society of *Naturforscher*, then assembled at Hainburgh. We were ushered into a very neat saloon, provided with six couches, beside each of which stood a dressing table, and a convenient apparatus for suspending the clothes of the bather. Here we undressed, and were furnished with long flannel dressing gowns and warm slippers, after which we were all conducted into a small hot apartment, where we were desired to lay aside our gowns and slippers, and were immediately introduced into the room called the bath, in which the dim light admitted through a single window of three panes, just sufficed to show us that there were in it two persons like ourselves in *puris naturalibus*; one of whom was an essential personage, the *operator*, the other a gentleman just finishing the process, by a copious effusion of cold water over his body. This sudden introduction into an atmosphere of hot steam was so oppressive that I was forced to cover my face with my hands to moderate the painful impression on the lips and nostrils,* and was compelled to withdraw my head as much as possible, from the most heated part of the atmosphere, by sitting down on a low bench which ran along two sides of the bath.

At first our modesty felt some alarm at our perfect nudity, and that of those around us; but I soon felt that it would be absolutely impossible to endure the contact of any sort of covering of our nakedness in a temperature so high; and consoled myself with the reflection, that it was no more than the promiscuous bathing I had so often practised at the sea-baths of Liverpool; an exposure which, notwithstanding my passion for bathing, was always disagreeable at the commencement of each season, but to which custom had soon rendered me indifferent.†

* This inconvenience is avoided in the Thomsonian baths, by getting the steam up gradually.

† In the Thomsonian baths, but one person bathed at

The bath room is about fifteen feet long by about as much in breadth. It is lined with wood, rendered quite black by constant immersion in hot steam. On two sides it has three tiers of benches, or rude couches, each of which is calculated to hold two persons with their feet towards each other; so that twelve persons might bathe at the same time. The lowest bench projects farthest into the room; they rise two feet above each other, and each has a wooden pillow at the ends.

In one corner of the farther end of the apartment stands the furnace, which is supplied with fuel from without, and has a thin arch of fire-brick turned over the fire, against which the flame reverberates until the arch is red hot. To increase the heated surface, numerous small earthen jars, or broken pottery, are piled on the arch, and all are kept up to a low red heat. On these a basin of water is occasionally dashed; and the clouds of steam which instantly issue from the door of the heated chamber, form the source of heat employed to maintain the temperature of the bath.

In one corner opposite to the furnace is a reservoir of water, into which, during our stay in the bath, the person who manages it, frequently plunged to cool his surface; a precaution not unnecessary for an individual who is exposed daily eight hours, stark naked, to a temperature quite oppressive to the uninitiated. Yet this exposure and this alternation cannot be unhealthy,* for I never saw a more athletic man than this person, who informed me that he had been constantly engaged in this occupation for sixteen or eighteen months.

The centre of the ceiling of the bath-room is perforated by numerous holes which allow a copious shower bath of cold water to descend on the head of the bather, when a valve managed by a cord is opened.

Such is the apparatus necessary for a Russian Vapor Bath.

After remaining some time in the bath, the first sensation of oppressive heat subsided, and I ascended to the second tier of benches, the wood of which however, was somewhat cooled by the plentiful effusion of cool water. At each remove, this operation is repeated; otherwise the contact of the wood would be insupportable to the skin. It is needless to say that the perspiration soon began to run from every pore, not merely as a moist exhalation, but it ran off in copious streams. This greatly moderated the sensation of heat.

After lying extended for some time on the second tier of benches, a bucket of cold water was dashed

a time—the bath being in construction, in infirmaries, something like a small closet. The steam is introduced into it, by means of a pipe, through the floor of the closet, and can be stopped instantly by a stop-cock. The top is fixed as shower-baths generally are. External communication is had while bathing through little openings in the door, which can be closed or not, at the pleasure of the patient. A bath occupies ten or fifteen minutes.

* We have some doubts on this point.

on the upper one, and we removed there; but the heat so near the ceiling was fully as oppressive as on first entering, and I found it necessary to allow the air to enter my nose through my fingers. If I inhaled it with the mouth wide open, I felt an oppressive heat in my chest, but by degrees even this degree of heat became supportable, though I never was able to sit upright on the bench, so strong was the temperature of the humid atmosphere close to the ceiling.

While we were groping our way from bench to bench, the assistant more than once plunged headlong into his cold bath, to refresh himself ere he commenced on us the next part of his professional occupation.

We were, one by one, requested to descend to the second tier, and the assistant, grasping in his hand a bundle of birch rods, began assiduously to whip his patient, who lay extended on the bench at full length, from head to heel. This application differs essentially from the well remembered scholastic birch discipline, for the leaves are left on the twigs, and the sensations produced in no way resemble the effect of the instrument employed in English schools to convey a knowledge of Greek and Latin into the heads of our youth. In fact this species of whipping is performed very dexterously, with a sort of brushing motion, from the shoulders downwards, and the application becomes general over the body and limbs, as the bather turns on his wooden couch. The sensations produced by this operation are agreeable, and are very far from producing that excessive redness of the surface described by Acerbi.

The operator now anoints the whole body with a liquid, mild soap; and, after again mounting to the upper tier for some time, we descended one by one to the middle of the floor, where a powerful effusion of cold water, from the shower bath in the ceiling, removes every vestige of soap. This sudden effusion of cold water is remarkably grateful; it is scarcely possible to describe the effect, which is highly exhilarating and refreshing.

It is usual again to undergo the steaming, after the temperature of the bath is increased by the effusion of water on the glowing pottery in the furnace. For this purpose the operator places us out of the immediate afflux of the steam, and then dashes in successive jets, a small bucket of water in the furnace. The apartment is instantly filled with clouds of steam at a high temperature, and when the door of the aperture is closed, we resume our places on the benches, gradually proceeding to the highest as we become inured to the temperature. From the upper tier, we finally descend to have the shower bath repeated, after which we leave the bathing room, are rubbed dry by assistants in the small heated apartment, where we resume the flannel dressing gown and slippers, and are reconducted to the saloon, where we find the couches spread with blankets, and we recline for half an hour, in a most profuse perspiration, and in a state of luxurious languor, and mental tranquility.

On a subsequent occasion, I provided myself with the means of ascertaining the temperature of the bathing room. The heat is generally from 133 degrees 25 minutes, to 144 degrees 5 minutes, of Fahrenheit. On the occasion referred to it ranged from

126 degrees to 135 degrees 5 minutes Fahrenheit, in the lower part of the bathing room; but I was unable to examine the temperature near the ceiling on account of the thick vapor and the intensity of the temperature, which affected my eyes. This temperature, high as it is, is far short of what Acerbi asserts of the Finish Baths. He says they reached from 70 to 75 degrees of Celcius,—from 158 to 167 degrees of our scale. But perhaps his thermometers were subject to the open fireplace, in the rude baths of that people; for their furnace consisted of a few loose stones piled into a sort of rude arch over a fireplace on the floor of the hut; or perhaps he did not accurately ascertain the temperature, as he never entered the bath but momentarily for the purpose of placing his thermometer; and I am confirmed in this by observing that the Finish operator, in his plate, appears dressed in his ordinary clothes, which I should think insupportable in so high a temperature as he assigns.

The effect of the Russian Vapor Bath, is to accelerate the pulse, which soon regains its natural standard on leaving the bath; and when I took it in a highly feverish state, I was, within an hour after, entirely free of fever, and able fully to enjoy the philosophic soiree that evening.

On bathing a second time, I was accompanied by the same two friends; our pulses (previous to entering the bath,) were about seventy-four a minute. On just coming out of the bath,

Dr. Traill's pulse beat - - - - - 116

Mr. Johnson's do. - - - - - 88

Mr. Palk's do. - - - - - 88

After having dressed, and sitting in an adjoining coffee room, perhaps one hour after the bath,

Dr. Traill's pulse beat - - - - - 83

Mr. Johnson's do. - - - - - 83

Mr. Palk's do. - - - - - 80

These experiments show the great difference in the excitability of the heat in different individuals, from exposure to the same heat. My pulse in my best health, is about 70; since I had the gout it ranges from 74 to 80, but is very easily excited, and I have often found it raised to more than 80, by an interesting conversation, or even a cup of strong tea.*

The process of the Vapor Bath is completed by a plentiful supply of towels, with which we gradually dry the surface, while we are well rubbed down by an assistant. We then resumed our dress, and returned to a coffee room, where there was a plentiful supply of newspapers, and had a good cup of coffee for two pence sterling. As I have already stated, the baths were free to the *naturforscher*, but I ascertained that the whole expense of the bath and its accompaniments is not more than one marc, or sixteen pence English, and for two pence more the bather is entitled to a cup of coffee, and to read the newspapers in a handsome apartment.

I received from the liberal owner permission to examine his splendid establishment of vapor and shower baths, devoted to females. The vapor bath resembles that already described, but is much neater.

The variety of shower baths surprised me. They

* It will be remembered that at the late New York trial the "scientific" mineral doctors swore that the pulse of young French, in consequence of a steam bath of 100 degrees, beat the impossible number of 160 a minute!

are of every conceivable form, from the powerful stream to the minute drizzling of water from orifices as fine as a needle, with jetting streams of warm or cold water, at the option of the bather, in every possible direction on her person. By means of polished brass arms, curved so as to enclose the body, moveable by universal joints, connected with a cistern, and perforated with innumerable minute holes, a *cross-fire* of jets (if I may be allowed the expression) is kept up on any part of the body. If the bather inclines to sit, a perforated seat is placed on a large flat trough which collects and carries off the water; jets of water play from the various moveable arms from each side, from above, and from below, so that every part of the surface is bedewed. A general stopcock commands the whole flow of water, while each brazen reed is under the control of one appropriate to itself. These are at the disposal of the bather; and each trough or bath is surrounded by curtains to screen the person from the eyes of the assistant.

Similar shower baths are appropriated to gentlemen. The whole forms one of the most elegant and perfect establishments of the kind I have ever seen, and is a source of emolument to the spirited proprietor.

I enquired anxiously into the medical efficacy of the Russian vapor bath, and found that in chronic rheumatism, in the stiffness of limbs consequent on gout, and other long continued inflammations, in some cases of palsy, in various cutaneous diseases, it is a most powerful and valuable remedy. While in the establishment I saw an invalid enter, who informed me, that after severe acute rheumatism, of several months duration, he was so lame that he had been carried by two persons into the bath; but that, after five or six times undergoing the discipline I have described, he could walk alone as well as I saw him, (he had walked, aided by a stick, from his home to the bath) and appeared confident that, in a little time, he should entirely recover the power and flexibility of his limbs.

From all that I could learn in Hamburgh, I am inclined to consider the vapor bath as a most valuable remedy in some chronic diseases, and regret that we have not a similar establishment in any of our medical charitable institutions.

THE DOCTOR AND THE QUAKER.—ANECDOTE.—A quaker was walking in the town of ———, in company with a “scientific” doctor. In conversation, the Friend spoke of the many false, needless, and hurtful fashions and customs of the day, and of many institutions which he considered useless; and also observed that many things were wrongly named, mentioning the particulars. As they proceeded, they came to a *Medical College*. Friend said the doctor, “do you not think this building rightly named?” “No,” replied the quaker. “If you were to put a sign on this building,” said the doctor, “what would you have on it?” Indeed, said the Friend, “if I were to do justice to the building, by giving a true sign, I would have a horse and a rider painted *pale*, with this text under the man and horse, (Rev. vi. 8.) ‘And I looked, and beheld a *pale* horse; and his name that sat upon him was *death*, and hell followed him!’” — The man of “science” sneaked off!

TO MOTHERS.

There is no period of life during which it is of greater importance to follow the directions of nature in the regulation of diet, both as to quantity and quality, than during the earliest part of childhood; for at no period is the neglect of them more fatal. Surprise is sometimes expressed at the number of children who die before completing their first or second year; but when we consider the defective education and ignorant prejudices (which perhaps originated with the “doctor”) not only of the nurses to whose care the young are entrusted, but of the parents themselves, our wonder ought to become greater that so many survive than that so many die.

Nearly one half the deaths occurring during the first two years of existence, are ascribable to mismanagement in diet, (and the errors of the “doctor” in attempting to mend the matter by poisons.) At birth the stomach is comparatively feeble and as yet unaccustomed to food. Its cravings are consequently easily satisfied, and frequently renewed. A healthy infant seeks the breast with avidity, but sucks little at a time. It leaves an interval for thoroughly digesting the little which it has swallowed; after which its appetite revives, and a fresh supply is demanded, in a language which no mother can misinterpret. During the first months, appetite ought to be the mother’s guide in offering the breast; and if she knows how to read the expression of her infant aright, she will want no other. At that early age there ought to be no fixed time for giving nourishment. The stomach cannot be thus satisfied. In one child digestion may be slow, and the interval be consequently too short; in another it may be quick, and the interval too long. But the active call of the infant is a sign which need never be mistaken, and none else ought to be listened to. Many mothers consider every expression of uneasiness as an indication of appetite, and whenever a child cries they offer it the breast again, although ten minutes may not have elapsed since its preceding repast. Nothing can be more injurious than this custom. It overloads and oppresses the stomach, excites griping and bowel complaints, restlessness, &c. It does harm also by withdrawing the mother’s notice from the real source of uneasiness.

It is astonishing, indeed, with what exclusiveness of understanding eating is regarded even by intelligent parents, as the grand solatium or panacea for all the pains and troubles that afflict the young. If a child falls over a stone and bruises its leg, its cries are immediately arrested by a sugar biscuit stuffed into its open mouth. If its temper is discomposed by the loss of a toy, it is forthwith soothed by an offer of sweatmeats. Because the mouth is open when the child is crying, it is by no means certain that it is opened merely to be crammed with food. And to confound crying and the expression of pain with the cravings of hunger, is far from being a matter of indifference to the child. If food be given when it wishes only to be relieved from suffering, the offending cause is left in activity, and its effects are perhaps aggravated by the additional ill-timed distention of its stomach. But so far is this important truth from being sufficiently impressed on the minds of parents and nurses, that nothing is more common, when the infant refuses to swallow more, but still continues to cry, than to force it in the

nurse's arms, as if to shake down its food, and then resume the feeding. In such attempts, it is too true that the perseverance of the nurse often gets the better of the child, and forces it at last to receive the food at which it really loathes.

Let appetite then be the only rule, but allow it to appear, and do not attempt to provoke it. The breast ought not to be offered to the infant; it is for him to seek it. He has little need of suffering who takes it with indifference, or as if he were conferring a favor. He who is hungry acts very differently; all his gestures express clearly the want and the desire. If he is crying, his cries cease at her approach, and smiles replace his tears. If he is offered the breast, he seizes it with ardor, and the mother yields to a natural want. But it is far otherwise when real appetite is wanting, and it then becomes an act of cruelty to tempt the infant by the offer of the breast.

The lower animals instinctively avoid this error, and instead of offering suck too often, rather allow themselves to be strongly solicited before yielding to the wishes of their young. By this provident arrangement, the latter are protected from the evils of too frequent eating.

The grand rule then during the early months of infancy, is to satisfy the clearly indicated and ascertained wants of the child, but neither to confine it to regular hours, nor to offer it food when it is crying solely from pain and not from hunger. When the system has become more developed, and the stomach accustomed to the exercise of its functions, regularity in the distribution of its meals may be gradually and beneficially introduced; because, in the animal economy, there is a natural tendency to periodicity, which greatly facilitates the formation of regular habits.

From the sudden change attending the introduction of the infant into the world, the many new sensations which it begins to feel, and the non-secretion of milk in the mother's breasts for some hours after delivery, it seems to have been intended by nature that both parent and child should have some time for repose before a supply of food should be required by the one or furnished by the other. But, through pure ignorance and mistaken kindness, nurses, imagining themselves (like the doctor) wiser than nature, and conceiving that the newly-born infant must be nearly starving, hasten to fill its stomach with gruel or some other food. Not unfrequently severe indigestion is thus induced at the very outset, which in a delicate child may be sufficient to lay the foundation of much suffering and bad health.

On the general principle that no physical want ever exists without the means of supplying it having been provided by nature, we may safely infer that, in ordinary cases, the secretion of milk will be begun before the infant can possibly require it; and to counteract this arrangement, is to set ourselves up in direct opposition to nature, and to give a species of food for which the stomach is not then prepared.

It is true that, in the artificial state of society in which we live, the secretion of milk is sometimes (though rarely) delayed so long as to endanger the welfare of the child. In such cases, it may be necessary to give a few teaspoonsful of fresh cow's

milk diluted with water, as a temporary substitute for its natural food; but this ought to be only when the necessity is obvious, and in a very small quantity at a time, otherwise the stomach and bowels will to a certainty suffer.

One evil result of the ignorance of the animal economy, which now prevails as the effect of error in regular medical practice, is the habitual distrust of the efficiency of the natural laws which regulate the animal functions. We cannot rest satisfied with discovering and yielding obedience to the designs of nature, but we think we must also do something to correct them! At birth, for example, the stomach and bowels, never having been used for the purposes of digestion, contain a quantity of mucus secretion—called meconium—which requires to be removed before they can enter upon their functions. To effect this object, nature has rendered the first portion of the mother's milk properly watery and laxative; and on the part of the infant, nothing farther is required than to allow it to follow its natural instinct and suck it in. Doctors, however, and nurses who have been infected with their folly, distrusting the providence of nature, often hasten to administer castor oil, or some other purgative in preference, and the result is the excitement of irritation of the stomach and bowels, which is not always easily subdued. If the young of the lower animals were treated in the same unnatural fashion, it cannot be doubted that disease and mortality among them also would be greatly increased.

I AM VERY BILIOUS.—This is a very common saying. The idea intended to be expressed by it is, that one has too much bile, or that the bile makes too fast, and therefore clogs, and causes foulness of stomach, sick headache, &c. This is a popular error. There is no such thing as too much gall; there is always just enough for health if it could be distributed as it ought to be, without meeting with any obstruction. Where people suppose they have too much bile, and are called bilious, the trouble is caused by the coldness and foulness of the stomach; which prevents a proper digestion of the food taken into it, and the bile not being appropriated to its natural use, is diffused through the pores of the skin, giving it a sallow appearance. The gall bladder is attached to the liver, and is situated between that and the stomach, so that when the latter is filled with food, the bile is discharged into it to assist in the digestion. It causes disease, because it is obstructed in its natural course. But the gall in itself is a perfectly natural and innocent substance. The doctors give bitter things to correct the bile, but the bile is bitter enough itself and these bitter things assist no other way than by strengthening the digesture. If there is already too much bile, why give bitter to make more? The only way to effect a cure, in what are called bilious disorders, is to cleanse the stomach by a thorough course of medicine, and afterwards give strengthening and bitter preparations to restore the digestive faculty. Where the digestion is bad, loss of appetite occurs, costiveness, faintness, and drowsiness affect the individual. The perspiration is likewise feeble and checked, because there is a lack of inward heat; and animal heat, it is well known, mainly depends upon the

proper exercise and tone of the digestive functions. Nothing could be better calculated to remedy all the symptoms of bad digestion, than the Thomsonian method of treatment. By this, the animal heat is raised, perspiration is made free, the cold slime or morbid, tarry matter is ejected, both from the stomach and bowels, the bile is restored to its legitimate use, the appetite returns, and the food nourishes and imparts tone and strength to the whole system.

Children are often troubled with the complaint called *chylous diarrhœa*. It is called by that name because the *chyle* passes through the bowels without being digested. The food becomes chyle when it has passed into the intestines, and here the bile comes to it and promotes digestion. But in this disease the bile does not go into the intestines, being obstructed by some cause or other, consequently digestion does not take place, but the food passes from the child in a *milky* form, very light colored. The bile becomes absorbed into the system and gives the face of the child a sallow appearance. Sometimes no bile is secreted and of course it would be wanting in the intestines. The chyle is formed from the food we eat, and from this substance the secretions are made. But if the chyle goes off as in the case here considered, the secretions must be proportionally diminished. The want of bile, then, must be owing to bad digestion.

In another form of diarrhœa, called *lienteric*, the food passes from the child almost entire, as potatoes or apples often do. In this case the stomach is so irritable that the food will not remain long enough in it to be acted upon, so as to be converted into *chyme* and from that into *chyle*, but passes through the whole extent of the stomach and intestines in a hour or two, producing sharp pains which is relieved by evacuation.

QUACK MEDICINES.—The advertisement of various quack medicines which are now in vogue, are well hit off in the following extract from a puff in a late Cincinnati paper:

"One single pill, worn in each pocket, will instantly give ease and elasticity to the tightest pantaloons. A like quantity will create an appetite in the most delicate stomach, or physick a horse. They will also be found to give a rich flavor to apple-dumplings, and a peculiar zest to pickled oysters; they will thicken soup, reduce corpulent persons, and are excellent bait for mouse traps. One pill, dissolved in a bucket of rain water, will be found a perfectly water-proof lining for canal embankments; placed in steamboat boilers, they will effectually prevent their bursting, and greatly increase the speed of the boats. As for their medical qualities, they are justly entitled to be called 'Medicamentum Gracia Probatum,' id. est. a remedy approved by grace—for they effectually cool St. Anthony's fire, and stop St. Vitus's dance; they purify the pimples in the small-pox, and eradicate the red gum in teething; they reduce white swellings, and cure the black jaundice, blue devils, yellow, scarlet, or any other colored fevers; they cure also the thrush in children and the pip in hens, the staggers in horses, and the nightmare in owls."

Never use Physic in any case.

MEDICAL SUPERSTITIONS IN HIGH PLACES.—It is not the least extraordinary feature in the history of medical superstition, (says a modern writer,) that it should so frequently involve in its trammels persons who, on every other occasion, would resent with indignation any attempt to talk them out of their reason, and still more so, to persuade them out of their senses: and yet we have continual proofs of its extensive influence even over powerful and cultivated minds. In ancient times, we may adduce the wise Cicero, and no less philosophic Aurelius, while in modern times, we need only call to mind the number of persons of superior intelligence, who are actually persuaded to swallow from the hand of their physicians, poisons most deadly, as though the magic of the doctor could direct and control their naturally baneful action. Lord Bacon, even, with all his philosophy, betrayed a disposition to believe in the inherent virtue of *charms* and *amulets*; and Boyle, seriously recommends the thigh bone of an executed criminal as a powerful remedy in dysentery. Among the remedies of Sir Theodore Mayerne, (known to commentators as the Doctor Caius of Shakspeare,) who was physician to three English sovereigns, and who, by his personal authority, put an end to the distinction of Chemical and Galenical practitioners in England, we shall find the secundines of a woman in her first labor with a male child; (afterwards generally adopted by "scientific" practitioners;) the bowels of a mole cut open while alive; mummy made of the lungs of a man who had died a violent death; with a variety of remedies equally absurd and alike disgusting.—And even at this very day, in the "Philadelphia Home Book of Health and Medicine," by a regular physician, a solution of arsenic is mentioned as a remedy for whooping cough; and in that and other works are *cob-webs* still recommended as a cure for fever and ague; as well as many things quite as ridiculous. We might ask, why not take spiders all together? but desire to avoid all such "billingsgate," as may gall the tender sensibilities of "our friends."

THE REGULAR AND THE QUACK.—ANECDOTE.—A distinguished mineral doctor who thought bleeding and calomel an infallible remedy in fevers, had attended a gentleman for some weeks, when the patient, finding himself to grow worse under the treatment, proposed calling another physician. "With all my heart, my dear friend," said the M. D.; upon which the patient named a certain physician who, it was well known, had no faith at all in the infallible remedies aforesaid, and whose practice had been founded more upon experience than fashionable theories. "No," replied the man of mercury, "I will never consult that d-d quack!" "If you will not attend with Dr. T—," said the patient, "he must attend without you—Good day, sir!" A few days after, the former seeing the latter going to his old patient, called out to him—"He is out of danger already; I defy you to kill him." "True enough!" replied the empiric: "after his passing through your hands, he may, indeed, *safely set death at defiance!*"

MAXIM.—Men may and will oppose and ridicule our theories, but they cannot long hold out against obvious facts.

SENSATION—ITS CAUSES AND EFFECTS.

We have heretofore (p. 33) described the body, as adapted for motion and capable of existence. We have now to enquire by what means we obtain a knowledge of surrounding objects, and are able to direct the various motions of our bodies.

The possession of this faculty is owing to the brain and nerves. The brain is a substance situated in the bony cavity of the skull; and the nerves, which are of a fibrous texture, appear like the continuation of the same substance through every part of the body. It is by means of the nerves that intimation is received of the property of surrounding bodies, which conveys its will to the muscles.—Thus, if I will to take up a book, the determination is conveyed by the nerves of my arm to the muscles, which immediately perform it; it is moved; I ascertain its shape and other properties, the intimations of which are conveyed by the nerves to the brain; for if the nerves of my arms were cut or tied, the muscles, although they would still possess the power of motion, could not by my will be influenced to act; or if my finger was applied to the book by another person, the nerves would convey no intimation to my brain by which I could distinguish its quality. Now, the manner in which sensation is produced in the brain from every part of the body, and in which volition is conveyed to the muscles by means of the nerves, can be but little known. Many ingenious men have in vain attempted to explain it. All they have been able to show is, that an object causing a sensation, produces an impression in a part of a nerve remote from the brain, which is propagated by the nerve to that organ. It is, however, a discovery in modern physiology, that sensation is not produced merely in consequence of the impression being made on the nerves, but that action in the nerve must be excited, which action is propagated along the fluid: and this discovery explains why we very often experience every sensation from infancy, when we are very often unaffected by impulses that are most forcible: for it is not the impulse, but the action that is excited, which is propagated to the brain, and occasions feeling.

In accounting for sensation, we are compelled to believe that there exists in the muscles as in the nerves, as well in the nerves as in the muscles, a subtle matter, which acts spontaneously whenever excited by external impressions on internal volition. It does not appear that there is a substantial difference in the construction of the nerves themselves, for, when injured, they all alike convey the same painful sensation. Therefore, why we see so well, appears to arise from the circumstance, that the nerve is protected from the touch of grosser bodies, and light has only access to it, and induces the action which occasions us to see places from which it has emanated, or been reflected. In like manner the auditory nerve is so sheltered from the touch of gross matter; but it is accessible to the vibration produced by sound, which excites the action that gives us hearing. All that is effected in any instance, is the excitement and propagation of motion to the brain; and although it is probable that the internal organization of the brain contributes to produce varieties of feelings and affections, yet such varieties can only be attributed to the wonderful

properties of which the parts are composed. And this is a subject that I think cannot fail to astonish every reflecting person. As, however, the functions of the nervous system form a very curious and interesting subject, allow me to consider them a little more extensively. There is a power of accommodation in the nerves to the circumstances in which they are placed. A man, for instance, confined in a dark place, shall receive an impression adequate to produce sight from a very small quantity of light, and his eye will be injured by the sudden application of the common daylight: the reverse of this is equally true: a person may remain in a strong light, and his eye become so injured to it, that the ordinary quantity shall fail to produce a proper impression: or a person who has been long in still and silent places shall hear the slightest sound, which shall be imperceptible to another whose ears were accustomed to the force of vibrations made by loudly sounding bodies. Habit, also, has some effect in contributing to this power of accommodation of the nerves to the circumstances in which they are placed. A ring, when first worn on the finger, is constantly felt and attended to; but, afterwards, the nerves cease to act, from being accustomed to the pressure; they also act so as to often excite feeling and attention on its removal. These powers of accommodation do not belong to particular senses, but have a more general influence. A person living a luxurious life, who shuns every sensation that gives him the least uneasiness, who attends merely to the gratification of his pleasures, renders his nervous system in general too sensible;—he shrinks from the cold winds, he is startled by a little noise, and every rough impression, which would not disquiet another, owing to his ill-judged indulgence, distresses him. Now let us mark the contrast in a hearty seaman who has endured the inclemencies of the weather, and has sustained fatigue and pain: he feels the wind blow, and hears the cannon thunder, but neither affects him much; and from being injured to sensations at first painful, he is at last unaffected even by those impressions which would hurt a man living in a medium between the two extremes.

The nervous system not only serves to inform us of the properties of surrounding objects by means of the organs of sense, but also to guard us against the application of any thing hurtful, as monitors teaching us to avoid it. Thus pain is very useful to us: but although from the nerves we occasionally suffer pain, yet, in general they are the source of pleasure by means of our senses. Let us suppose an animal in a state of nature and health. Is not his eye delighted by beautiful prospects, and his ear charmed with melody—is he not regaled by the odors of herbs and plants! Does not his every want contribute to his gratification?—the want of nourishment occasions hunger—fatigue requires rest; and where are there greater animal pleasures than in the gratification of such wants? Such is the state of an animal formed for enjoyment. But to this corporeal state, man has added and affixed reason, which ought to furnish him with the greatest source of pleasure, if the intention of nature were not perverted. Finding gratification proceed from the satisfaction of his wants, he has absurdly increased their number in order to increase his enjoyment.

For all natural wants nature has amply provided; but these fictitious wants cannot be gratified, and therefore he has made to himself a source of disquiet and discontent.

There is another subject on which I wish for a few minutes to engage your attention, as I think it cannot fail to interest even those who have not been much engaged in physiological researches—I mean the connexion of animal motion with sensation. We naturally are influenced in our reason by our feelings; and, knowing that we shrink from whatever gives us pain, we infer that the involuntary emotion of animals arises from the same cause; yet, if the subject be attentively considered, I have no doubt that this opinion will be found erroneous. If a man's leg be amputated, and stimulated some hours afterwards by electricity, excited in the manner which Volta first explained, a rapid motion of the muscles will take place: but can we believe that this limb has sensation—or could we persuade the person from whose body it has been removed to be of that opinion? Surely not, for he will feel no pain when the limb is excited or immediately after it: on the contrary, he may feel pain when it is not: nay, people actually feel pains in their limbs—pain and sensation in their limbs when they are destroyed by putrefaction; which shows, if I may so express it, the totality of the essential principle remaining in the brain.

If any thing be proved in physiology, it is that the essential principle is connected with the brain; yet motion takes place in parts unconnected with that organ; even vegetables, and the lower kind of animals, possess powers of motion, but it requires that the mind should be in some degree prejudiced before we can believe such motion to be the result of feeling. Assuredly, motion does not necessarily imply sensation: we see rapid and powerful motion of matter taking place around us, in cases where no physiologist ever dreamed that they arose in consequence of sensation.

I cannot here recite all the arguments in proof of this opinion, that the action of animals takes place independently of sensation; but this, I believe, will be found to be clear in this mysterious subject, that the faculty of sensation lies in the brain of man, and that the motions arising in the nerves, in consequence of impressions made on them, are propagated to the brain, and give us all that knowledge we possess of surrounding bodies; whence other motions, excited by volition, are continued in the contrary direction through the nerves, and enable us to regulate the action of our muscles so as to operate upon the objects which surround us.

The conclusion to be drawn from this summary survey of the animal powers is interesting; for we perceive so exact a correspondence between these opinions which result from physiological research, and those which arise so naturally from the suggestions of reason, that some persons have considered them as innate and intuitive. Most reflecting persons have, in all ages of the world, believed, what is indeed natural to believe, and what physiology also teaches us, that there exists in the human body an assemblage of organs formed of common and inert matter, such as we see any where,—a principle of life and action,—an essential and rational property, all connected, and yet each apparently distinct from the other.

MATRIMONY.—The most proper age for entering the holy bands of matrimony has been much discussed, but never settled. I am entitled to my opinion; and although I cannot here give the grounds on which it rests, the reader may take it for granted that I could adduce, were this the proper place, a great number of weighty reasons, both moral and physical, for the dogma which I am going to propound. The maxim, then, which I would inculcate is this—that the female should be, at least, twenty one years of age, and the male twenty-eight years. That there should be seven years difference between the ages of the sexes, at whatever period of life the solemn contract is entered upon, need not be urged, as it is universally admitted. There is a difference of seven years, not in the actual duration of life in the two sexes, but in the stamina of the constitution, the symmetry of the form, and the lineaments of the face. The wear and tear of bringing up a family might alone account for this inequality—but there are other causes inherent in the constitution, and independent of matrimony or celibacy. In respect to early marriage, as far as it concerns the softer sex, I have to observe that, for every year at which the hymeneal knot is tied below the age of twenty-one, there will be, on an average, three years of premature decay of the corporeal fabric, and a considerable abbreviation of the usual range of human existence. It is in vain to point out instances that seem to nullify this calculation. There will be individual exceptions to all general rules. The above will be found a fair average estimate. On the *moral* consequence of too early marriages it is not my intention to dilate; though I could adduce strong arguments against, and very few in favor of the practice. It has been said that matrimony *may* have miseries, but celibacy has no pleasures. As far as too early marriage is concerned, the adage ought to run thus—marriage must have miseries, though celibacy may have no pleasures.—Johnson's Economy of Health.

THE BASIS OF THE BOTANIC SYSTEM.—The Botanic System of Medical Practice is altogether the fruit of experience. It had no part of its origin in hypothesis, nor has it ever been the least improved by mere abstract speculation. It is based upon the principle that all forms of disease proceed from one cause, viz: obstruction; and of course may be removed by the judicious application of any remedies that experience has taught will remove obstructions; or in other words, we maintain that there is no life without heat, or disease without obstructions: and that all constitutions are the same; that is the organic structure, the mode of eating and digesting food, of performing the secretions, imbibing disease, and casting it off, &c. are the same. But this does not mean that every form of disease is to be cured by the same single article, but by a single systematic process, viz: of relaxing the body, throwing off obstructions, and toning up the system. This may be done by any means that are calculated to effect it. Thousands of vegetables may be adequate to the task, but the principle of application must ever be the same.—[Medical Ga. Reformer.

Our subscription list increases daily.

ESSAY ON BILIOUS FEVER AND THE USE OF CALOMEL.—By Dr. A. Hunn, of Kentucky.—This is the era of *calomel*. The present regular medical practice might well dispense with every other drug besides it. I own the *calomel* practice is both cheap and easy to the physician; for the whole extent of both theory and practice is, give *calomel*; if that will not help give *more calomel*; and if that again proves abortive—double, treble, the doses of *calomel*. If the patient recovers, “*calomel* has cured him”; if he dies, “nothing on earth could have saved him.”—The reader will conclude that medical schools and academics, with the head-aching studies of anatomy, physiology, botany, pharmacology, and chemistry, have been laid prostrate by this giant, *calomel*. Half a day’s, nay, in a genius, half an hour’s study, will initiate any lady or gentleman into all the mysteries of the *Æsculapian* art and the “*aurea praxis*,” [golden practice,] might swell the account of a modern Galenus to \$100 at the expense of 12½ cents. This is certainly, for the doctor, “a consummation devoutly to be wished.” But there is a heavy drawback on our joy, which the fable of the boys and the frogs so ingeniously portrays: “what is joy to you is death to us,” said the expiring frogs. I expect to show to my impartial reader that the present *calomel* practice in fevers, is a calamity in its ravages co-extensive with the empire of civilization, and that war, with all its ghastly concomitants, must hail *calomel* as its master.

The *proper* effects of Mercury on the human frame, are, 1st, *fever*, as I have elsewhere defined it. 2d, It is the cause of a peculiar action on the lymphatic vessels. 3d, It chemically decomposes the fluids, and particularly the lymph: this is, in my opinion, the true cause of the fetid breath in salivation. 4th, In constitutions prone to that effect, or under circumstances favoring it, or when too long used, it produces *mortifying ulcers* of a specific kind, which have hitherto proved absolutely incurable.—Its accidental effects are, 1st, Salivation, which may also be produced by other drugs, and sometimes appears spontaneously, and which is not at all necessary to effect a cure. 2d, In a state of great visceral irritability, or when given in large doses, it proves a sickening and powerful purgative, with a singular sympathetic affection of the liver, which viscus is thereby thrown in a morbid convulsive action, creating bile, exorbitant in quantity and poisonous in quality: when in a healthy state the bilious secretion is mild, moderate in quantity, and salutary.

Now it appears to be a law in animalization, that two distinct fever causes cannot operate at the same time on the system. Thus, for instance, if the infection of the measles lodges in the body when a patient is inoculated with the small pox, the latter will lay inactive till the first has run through its course. This law I apprehend, first introduced mercury into the fever practice, and it is a fact, that if the *proper* mercurial action can be produced, the fever by a miasma will speedily cease. But my reader will please to observe, 1st, that in all fever cases it is extremely precarious and doubtful to produce this *proper* mercurial action; and there are many cases in which it cannot be induced at all: besides that, when induced, it is *unmanageable*. 2d, If the bowels are very irritable and weak, or in

peculiar habits, it will operate as a purge and throw the liver into bile-creating convulsions, like a blister plaster on the very liver. It will attract more or less of the febrile impetus upon that vital viscus, producing a dangerous inequality, which is called “bilious fever.” 3d. After a vast quantity of mercury has been introduced into the system, which, for want of sufficient excitability, has lain dormant—if now, by a sudden increase of that excitability or from other unknown causes, it evinces its presence by salivation, this will be of course enormous and distressing. The teeth, those valuable instruments of our most substantial enjoyments, become loose and rot, perhaps fall out; or, worse still, the upper and lower jaw bones exfoliate and rot out sometimes, as I have witnessed, in the form of horse-shoes; parts of the tongue and palate are frequently lost, and the poor object lingers out a doleful existence during life. A tremendous description this, indeed,—yet this happens when mercury performs a cure. In our summer and fall fever, the pestilential bilious symptoms occasioned or aggravated by it, carry the patient speedily off in inexpressible torments, and spread the multiplied miasmi among the mourning family, the unwary bystanders, and nurses!

Are there any of my readers who would not by this time pray, “deliver us from *calomel*?” Yes, my fellow citizens, you can be, the world will be, delivered from it! Only drive away prejudice, that black thunder-cloud, which ever hovers over truth;—think for yourselves, as free republicans ever should think;—consult your precious healths and lives. My method of cure in fever is entirely without mercury and its doleful effects. Were I even not more successful than those gentlemen of the medical profession, who trust so much to the virtues of *calomel*, still the gain would be immense; but from facts enumerated fairly by myself and others, I ween I have nothing to fear from an impartial comparison.

SCHOOL ROOMS AND CONSUMPTION.—Dr. M. S. Perry, in a lecture before the Boston Physiological Society, stated that one of the superinducing causes of the formation of tubercles on the lungs was exposure to impure and noxious air; and he alluded in strong terms to the situation of many of the primary schools, as well as private academies, where there is too little regard to the condition of the air. It is only necessary for a person to be made sensible of the existence of very impure air in schools, to go into a full school room from the fresh atmosphere out of doors, and observe the offensive odor that meets him, as well as the difficulty of breathing that he experiences. That such a state of the air is very unhealthy indeed, it requires no arguments to prove; and parents and teachers would do well to give the subject serious attention.

POISONING!—It is astonishing, and will remain an astonishment to future ages, that the very rankest poisons are the greatest remedies now in use in the world, and have been for at least fifty years past. It would be a melancholy tale, could it be told, of the millions who have perished through this practice.—[Dr. Robinson.]

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, MARCH 1, 1838.

MEDICAL VERACITY.—"It is well known, that in practice there is great occasion to be circumspect; for, either from the misrepresentations of patients, or the *credulity* or *vanity* of writers, many medical works are filled with the most useless and improbable histories, defective in the essential article of all records, TRUTH."—p. 230.

Quite complimentary, truly! Were the observations our own, instead of being those of a standard medical author, we should almost expect to be accused of employing "*billingsgate*" epithets to the *scientific* and *veracious* brotherhood! Perhaps we ought to ask pardon for even copying the biting censure of Dr. Denman! It is in our opinion, however, so exceedingly applicable to a very large portion of medical authors, that we shall "run the risk," and print it.

EMETICS DURING PREGNANCY.—"When there is nausea or inclination to vomit without any evacuation, a gentle emetic is the best remedy: and this may be repeated, whenever the urgency of any symptom requires it; *experience having fully proved*, THAT EMETICS MAY BE GIVEN TO PREGNANT WOMEN WITH PERFECT SAFETY."—p. 235.

We most respectfully would beg to dedicate the preceding paragraph to his honor, Recorder Riker, of New York, who was so anxious, during the late *witchcraft* trial of Dr. Frost, to learn whether it was proper to administer an emetic to ladies who are in a state of "domestic solicitude," that he put the question to every doctor, and for aught we know, to half the spectators, within the court. We also wish the Thomsonians, and all other people, to recollect the answers which were invariably made to the question of the Recorder, by the mineral doctors. They *swore* without exception, that the exhibition of emetics at such times, would be exceedingly *dangerous*: and if we are not much mistaken the question was put to some of the doctors repeatedly, for the Recorder said he was particularly anxious to obtain correct information on this interesting point: (he did not state the cause of his anxiety; but as he is pretty well advanced in years, we apprehend there is no occasion for much alarm.) Yes, the "medical gentlemen" positively and repeatedly *swore*, that to administer an emetic to a pregnant woman, would be dangerous in the extreme. They swore to this in defiance to what is taught, by one of their highest authorities, in the above extract—(and we can give a dozen similar ones from the same author); they swore to it in defiance of what is taught by all other authors of repute, as well as Denman; they swore to what *they knew to be false*; or, which is equally bad, to what they knew not to be true.

WHAT SHALL WE EAT?—"The appetite, unsophisticated by bad habits, will probably never mislead us as to the quality of our food. It may rather be esteemed a guide implanted in us by nature, which we shall never err in following, if we act with discretion as to the quantity."—p. 237.

We commend the above to the "Grahamites."—Our own sentiments are very similar; though it is quite doubtful, we confess, even if all should adopt this apparently simple rule, whether the world would be any nearer than now to a general reconciliation in relation to the vexed and vexing question of what shall we eat? For like Gulliver's "Big-end-ians" and "Little-end-ians," regarding the eating of eggs, each party would affirm that the appetite of the opposite had been "sophisticated by bad habits." No one, however, will doubt the abstract truth of the extract,—and **BE TEMPERATE** we imagine to be the best offset against "sophistication."

CANDID CONFESSION.—"Whoever will give himself time to consider the possible *mistakes* and want of *skill* in younger practitioners, which I fear *many of us may recollect*," &c.—p. 370.

It does seem possible, then, that even "scientific" practitioners may commit mistakes, and be lacking in skill, after all. What would they say to an *indictment* for these instances of ignorance and malpractice which so often occur? But we forget—they kill by *law*; and it is treason in the uninitiated to point out the errors of the faculty.

INSTRUMENTS.—"If we compare the general good done with instruments, however cautiously used, with the evils arising from their unnecessary and improper use, we might doubt whether it would not have been happy for the world, if no instrument of any kind had ever been contrived for, or recommended in the practice of midwifery."—p. 371.

Sad experience has taught the faculty the truth of these conclusions, or at least ought so to do.

WISDOM OF THE DOCTORS EXEMPLIFIED.—Respecting the Cæsarian operation—"in several of the cases recorded, we find some circumstance which proves that the operation *was not necessary*; or that the grounds on which it ought to be performed were *not well understood*. The ideal glory of the operation has, perhaps, had its influence in France, where it has certainly been *often proposed*, and sometimes, without a doubt, *performed unnecessarily*, and in some other parts of the continent, of which the account of the following case, given me by the late Dr. James Ford, is a proof. While he was attending the hospitals at Paris, a woman was laid upon the table for the purpose of performing this operation, [cutting open the abdomen,] and while the surgeons were preparing for it, the child was expelled by the natural pains."—p. 419.

We think the above furnishes its own commentary, and requires no remarks from us. Well would it be were this the only kind of instance, in which a surgical operation has been hastened to the frequent and often fatal injury of patients.

ORIGIN OF THE HEALING ART.—"In what country medical knowledge was first cultivated, and reduced into scientific order, cannot now be traced; for, beyond a certain period, (the era of Hippocrates,) the records we have are crowded with fable, and being chiefly supported by conjecture, are by no means entitled to unreserved confidence. But long before the establishment of systems, there must have been

a time, when means were used for the cure of diseases, and the relief of accidents. There must have been a time, when the rude but well-meant endeavors of one friend to relieve another in distress ceased, and application was made to those who were supposed to have more information or greater skill. This would properly be the origin of the art."—p. 18.

Again—"When men, first collected into societies, had provided for their subsistence, they would endeavor to amend their state, by removing such evils and inconveniences as were most urgent, either from their importance or frequency. Next to those arts by which the means of support were acquired, that of medicine would be of principal consideration, as from the nature of their employments, hunting, fishing, pastoral, or agricultural, men must have been liable to diseases and to injuries, which by accident or trial they would learn some method of relieving; and he that should by more accurate observation, or by age, have gained the greatest collection of knowledge, or the most dexterous method of applying it to useful purposes, would become a physician."—p. 364.

How strangely does time, and cunning knavery, alter things! At this enlightened day, instead of being recommended by superior information or greater practical skill, the *law* establishes the necessity alone of dog-latin and diplomas, as the requisite qualifications of a medical practitioner. These latter are the *essentials* to the *lawful* practice of physic—and, no matter if their favored possessor be naturally a fool, these shall sustain and protect his conduct and pretensions, and enable him to *crush* all opposition.

A NEW WRINKLE IN SCIENTIFIC PRACTICE— which is published as an "*Ingenious mode of removing Congestion of Brain, &c. without losing Blood, and also to stop Hemorrhage,*" among those who do not know enough to remove them both by simply equalizing the circulation, by steam baths and stimulants, which properly and thoroughly applied, will seldom, if ever, fail. There is ingenuity enough in this process of Dr. Murray, but we have very little faith in its efficacy.

"Sir James Murray has turned the *dry cupping* principle to a very ingenious account. He presented an ingenious contrivance, something like a slipper bath, which had an air-pump for exhausting the air applied to it. The patient was placed in it, and it was then made air-tight, leaving him a breathing communication with the external atmosphere. The air was then exhausted from the interior, and atmospheric pressure removed from the surface of the body. About a pound of atmosphere being exhausted, took off a ton of atmospheric pressure. The consequence was, where the body was before cold and collapsed, the vessels were immediately filled up and rendered turgid, while it did not at all interfere with the process of respiration. He exhibited another application of the same contrivance, of a long tin tube made air-tight, and with a piece of wet bladder round one end, which was open; at the other end, which was closed up, a small exhausting air-pump was placed. A patient with a paralytic wrist put his hand into this, the wet bladder was tied round his arm at the top to make it air-tight, and the atmosphere was then pumped out of the tube, by the patient himself, or any person. The atmospheric pressure being

taken off, the limb became turgid, the circulation was increased, and the part affected was soon cured. There was another adaptation of the same contrivance to the limbs to draw off the effect of congestion of the brain. There was another application to stop hemorrhage in an injured hand, limb, or other extremity. An exhausting pump was fixed to the end of a bladder, the limb was put into the bladder, and the neck then tied round to make it air-tight. The air was then completely exhausted by means of the pump, which compressed the bladder so close to the skin as effectually to stop even the pores of the skin. The same contrivance of a bladder and exhausting pump was also applied for the cure of ulcerated legs, by preventing the evaporation of the ulcers, by exhausting the air, and making the collapsed bladder adhere tightly all round. There were several other ingenious contrivances and applications of the same invention."

CATHARTICS.—Under this head may be found in the first volume of the Thomsonian Recorder an article, from which we extract the following, as being worthy of attention. It will be recollected that the editor of that publication was a reformed regular,—of course he had at one time made use of purgatives, and was able by considerable experience to judge of their merits or demerits. He says—

"For ourselves we have long exploded the use of purgatives from our practice. It was with no small difficulty we conquered our propensity to lean to those vulgar prejudices, that induce so many to think that in all cases of sickness they must resort to purging and drenching out the bowels with violence. Our confidence in Dr. Thomson's instructions, had a powerful influence upon our conduct. We have become convinced by deductive reasonings, practical experience, and faithful observation, that purgative medicines are not only useless, but in most cases, absolutely injurious.

"Dr. Thomson, in his practice, proposes by emetics, perspiratives and injections, to remove those obstructions of the stomach, bowels and skin, that occasion and support disease; of course purgatives are supernumerary. In his 24th item of general directions, on the subject of purgative medicine, under a general, colonial appellation of "*physic*," the Doctor has given us this very salutary advice. 'Never make use of *physic* in cases where there is canker inside, for it will draw the determining powers inward and increase the disease. I have seen so many bad effects from giving *physic*, that I have disapproved of the use of it altogether: but if any is given, after the operation be careful to keep up the inward heat, so as to cause a free perspiration.'

"This notion of purging the bowels, is in all a vulgar folly, a tradition of the schools, and among the faculty, a servile, plodding imitation of their predecessors, without a thorough investigation of facts, and examining the results of such practice for themselves. We have had sundry cases, where the patient, when going through a course of Thomsonian medicine, insisted on the use of a cathartic, as an auxiliary or assistant to the course. Under such circumstances, some have inadvertently yielded to their patients, when they ought rather to have persevered with an undeviating hand, or have abandoned the case to the purging faculty and their coadjutors.

The fact is, we have never known an instance of the kind, where the patient was not a sufferer. We have known of instances, where patients were greatly relieved, and apparently convalescent, under a Thomsonian course, who evidently paid their lives, a forfeit to their rashness, in obstinately persisting in the swallowing of purgatives—the very use of which implies a contrary indication from the Thomsonian prescriptions, and cannot apply to the same patient at the same time, under any conceivable circumstance whatever. When the purgative is down and begins to operate, the powers of life, that were rising with increasing energy, begin to decline; the obstructions that were being removed, those determinations to the skin that were in progressive operation, all become retrograde, the animal functions are depressed, and assisted to complete the work of death.”

We cannot tell how the pill dealers will get over these plain statements, nor do we much care. The extracts serve to show that the opinion respecting the use of cathartics, has undergone no change among the radical Thomsonians, in what ever light they may be considered by self-styled improvers or mongrels.

The following observations of the editor of the *Botanic Sentinel*, will form an appropriate conclusion to the above. We extract from an article on page 332, volume ii.

“Cayenne produces a cathartic effect, but it differs materially from the cathartics in ordinary use: it stimulates the mucus surface of the intestines and augments the secretions, without being followed by relaxation and debility. This is the great objection to medicines which act by merely *irritating* the exhalents of the intestines: their stimulating impressions having subsided, they leave those vessels in a state of torpor and inactivity; consequently they impair or vitiate the secretions, and add to the morbid condition of the stomach and bowels. These are evils which do not follow the use of cayenne.

“Bitter root is sometimes of service—but there are numerous instances in which it should be entirely abandoned. It may afford relief in some of the fevers by allaying vascular excitement; this effect is produced by abstracting from the circulation through the medium of the intestinal exhalents, for we know when active purging takes place, there is an abundant evacuation of the serous portion of the blood: arterial excitement is consequently diminished by lessening the quantity of the blood: besides, the vitiated contents of the bowels, which might prove a source of irritation, and add to the general excitement of the system, are *ultimately* removed; but this is a tedious and indirect way of accomplishing a salutary purpose, and may in some instances, prove highly dangerous. Restore the system to a proper exercise of its functions, and cathartics will not be required.”

HEALTH OF THE MIND.—Anguish of mind has driven to thousands to suicide—anguish of body, none. This proves that the health of the mind is of greater consequence than the health of the body—although both are deserving of much more attention than either of them receive.

EFFECTS OF FRIGHT.—A Miss Leonard, of Lancaster, Penn., was frightened into convulsive fits by the firing of cannon on the morning of the 8th ult. She had been sitting up over night with a dead body.

TRIUMPHS OF SCIENCE!—We find the following paragraph in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*:—

A correspondent writes to us from New York, thus: “I presume you have seen an account of Frost’s trial for manslaughter. It has caused much excitement here among the profession. Many of them feel sore that members our brotherhood, when placed on the stand for the purpose of eliciting a scientific opinion, should have declared on oath, ‘that the patient’s pulse was 160!!’ ‘that his *nerves were in a state of excitement*,’ ‘that it was possible to distinguish typhus fever, small pox, and scarlet fever, at the *inception* of the disease!!’ ‘that oxalic acid was a *mineral* poison;’ ‘that if lobelia passed into the bowels it might purge,’ as if no medicine could operate on the alimentary canal, without coming in contact with the surface, &c.”

The Thomsonians need not be at the trouble of ridiculing, or exposing the fallacy of, the testimony here commented upon, when it has been so admirably done by one of the leading medical journals. The truth is, the more enlightened of the medical faculty are ashamed of their New York brethren—not only of their ignorance and stupidity, but their want of dignity and self respect.

The editor of the journal from which we quote, is entitled to credit for the independent manner in which he has applied the lash to those wretched pretenders to medical skill and science. We had supposed that his bitterness towards the Thomsonians, would lead him to sanction the conduct of his medical brethren in New York, from the alpha to the omega of this extraordinary trial, but it seems we have been agreeably disappointed.

The time was, when the medical faculty were regarded as the very oracles of wisdom, but their day of glory seems to have vanished.

The same journal contains the following paragraph:

“A full report of the trial of Richard K. Frost, for manslaughter, has been forwarded from New York, but it is too voluminous for republication in this place. Suffice it to say that he was tried for killing a man under the Thomsonian plan, and was convicted of manslaughter in the *fourth* degree—just no degree at all. It is equivalent to an acquittal, which will probably be the ultimate termination of that unhappy affair.”

The editor of the Journal has grown quite melancholy. He certainly does not speak in sympathy for Thomsonians, but laments the course which was pursued by his professional brethren. The “affair” was unquestionably an “unhappy one” for the medical faculty. They exposed their ignorance and baseness, and assisted in permanently laying the corner stone of the great Thomsonian Temple.—[*Philada. Botanic Sentinel*.]

SUDDEN DEATH.—A lady, apparently between 50 and 60 years of age, called about 9 o’clock on Sunday night, two or three weeks since, at the Apothecary store, corner of Tenth and Race-street in Philadelphia, and asked for some hartshorn, stating that she was very ill. She was assisted into an adjoining room, where she expired in a few minutes. Her name was Harding.

Had such an occurrence happened within gunshot of a Thomsonian store, what an appalling yell from every point of the compass would have been sent up by the screech-owls of the Faculty, of “*Death by steam and lobelia*!”

CONVERTS FROM THE RANKS OF THE REGULARS.—*Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse*, for fifteen years Professor in the University at Cambridge, Mass., says, among many other commendatory observations, "I remain firm in the opinion, that the system and practice of *Dr. Thomson* is superior to any now extant: for by his remedies as much can be accomplished in three or four days, as can be done by the regular physicians in about as many weeks—and that too without *injuring the patient*. I consider *Thomson* a great *Reformer*, and as standing on higher ground than *Paracelsus*, who was born in 1493. I have said thus much, with the assurance of performing a grateful office and duty to the afflicted, and in fact to every one around me—and I remain, and hope to remain, *Thomson's* firm and sincere friend."

Dr. Thomas Hersey, surgeon of the U. S. Army in the last war, practising surgeon and physician in Columbus, Ohio, spoke of the comparative merits of the Thomsonian system and the old methods of practice, as follows: "More than forty years of my life have been devoted to the ancient or "*regular*" practice. Ten years have been spent in investigating and ascertaining the claims of this system on public confidence. A partial learning was the first step; and the result was a mixed practice, which I found could not succeed. I discovered I must be a Thomsonian altogether, or abandon the cause. The result has been, that thus resolutely pursuing this course, I was astonished at its success. This outrivalled any thing with which I had ever been acquainted in domestic practice, or in my former official capacity as surgeon of the U. S. Army, or in any public or private station I have ever been called to fill." And, he added, "events are ripening fast—a momentous crisis in medical practice is standing at the door. The lancet, calomel, nitre, antimony, arsenic, opium, and blisters, must prevail, or thank God, they must be laid aside. Thomsonians do not and will not use these life-depressing, and life-destroying articles. But with their safe and simple vegetables, their success tramples on authorities and powers, and *Thomson's* system travels onward, gloriously and victoriously, and never shrinks from the severest scrutiny."

Dr. Samuel Robinson, of Cincinnati, Ohio, who pursued his studies in England, and subsequently in Philadelphia, under *Rush*, said: "I have renounced the depleting and poisonous practice altogether, and hereafter from this day, my life shall be spent in diffusing a knowledge of the excellency and superiority of the Thomsonian system, however much I may be abused by my former brethren." [*Dr. R.* was the author of the celebrated popular "lectures" on the Thomsonian system—of which tens of thousands have been published.]

Dr. William K. Griffin, of Clinton, N. Y., who received his diploma from the Fairfield Medical Institution, says: "While pursuing the 'old study' I was never satisfied, but after an impartial investigation of *Dr. Thomson's* system, I became its firm, bold, and undaunted friend; from the fact of the remedies prescribed being safe, powerful, speedy and efficacious."

Dr. Robert D. Montgomery, who graduated in '96, studied medicine in Columbia, S. C. under the tuition of Drs. Hendricks and Montgomery, and subsequently attended the medical lectures of Shepper,

Rush, Woodhouse and Barton, in Philadelphia, said: "A *Rush*, a *Brown*, and others, have declared their belief in the unity of disease, and the unity of cure. *Dr. Thomson* joins them in the belief and practises on that principle. Away, then, with your thousand diseases and your thousand remedies, and adopt that system which is both safe and salutary to man."

Dr. Truman Powell, formerly a professor in the Vermont Medical College, at Burlington, says:—"Dr. Samuel Thomson is, in my opinion, justly entitled to great praise; for, notwithstanding the greatest persecutions and calumny have been heaped upon him, he has stemmed the current of abuse, and now has the satisfaction to see his practice triumphantly received by the people."

To the above may be added the following, some of whom were prominent members of the faculty; and with a little pains, the list might be greatly extended. *Dr. Reuben Tolman*, Hallowell, Me.; *Dr. A. C. Logan*, Pennsylvania; *Dr. Anderson*, Virginia; *Dr. William Ripley*, New Orleans; *Dr. Stephen Butts*, Indiana; *Dr. J. W. Comfort*, Philadelphia; *Dr. G. W. Goodwin*, Newburyport, Mass.

THOMSON'S QUACKERY.—We extract the following from the address of *Dr. Thomson*, to the U. S. Thomsonian Botanic Convention, held at Columbus, Ohio, in December, 1832. How many of the regular mineral quacks would agree to any such proposition as this of *Dr. Thomson*?—precious few we imagine; for if they did, they would find it to be rather harder than it now is to pocket fifty or sixty thousand dollars for every dozen years' practice, as many of them have done, besides living like princes all the while. The suffering of the people is their gain—and they, generally, act accordingly. Here is the "*steam quack's*" proposition:

"I would propose a thorough reform in medical practice. Let the physician agree for a reasonable stipulated sum, to preserve or restore the health of an individual or family, for a given time, say one year;—contract to pay a certain stipulated sum for every day the patients might necessarily lose, by reason of sickness. To prevent the possibility of fraud or deception, let the contract be sufficiently guarded on both sides. Then the people would pay for health, and not for sickness!—This would at once call out, introduce, and make general, the best mode of practice.—Families would soon be found willing to take most of the responsibility on themselves. The salaries of physicians would become low; for, the people being enlightened, physicians would have but little to do."

REAL IMPROVEMENT.—In the progress of society, all great and real improvements are perpetuated. The same corn [grain] which, four thousand years ago, was raised from an improved grass, by an inventor worshipped for two thousand years, in the ancient world, under the name of *Ceres*, still forms the principal food of mankind; and the potatoe, perhaps the greatest benefit the old has derived from the new world, has spread over Europe, and will continue to nourish an extensive population, when the name of the race by whom it was cultivated in South America is forgotten.—[*Sir H. Davy*.]

CONSUMPTION.—The manner of treating people supposed to be consumptive, is probably the cause of more deaths by consumption than any thing else. People frequently send for a doctor when they have a bad cough, pain in the side, disordered stomach, and no appetite. They are directed by the man of pills perhaps to wear a *plaster* on their side, which stops up the pores—to put on a *blister*, which exco-riates the skin and poisons the blood—to have an *issue* or *scaton*, which runs their strength away—to be *bled*, which lowers the stream of life—take *salts*, which cools the blood—*calomel* and *jalap*, which causes an inward fever—*antimonial pukes*, causing cramps and spasms—to be *salivated* by a *course of mercury*, till their tongues are swelled out of their mouths, their lips black, their teeth loose—all the while being *half starved*—and if this does not quite kill them, they are at last advised to go into the *country for their health!* Probably no man on earth could go through so much without being confined to his bed. And no wonder that after going through all these things, a person is then declared to be in a consumption, past all cure, and is given up to die.—*Consumption* may as certainly be cured as any other complaint, if rightly attended to in season. It is generally caused by a cold. Most people with this complaint, date the beginning of it from wetting their feet, from damp beds, night air, wet clothes, taking cold after being heated, or something of this kind. The proper method of cure is by “raising the heat,” removing morbid matter from the stomach and bowels, and clearing the system from all obstructions, quickening the circulation of the blood, opening the pores for free and natural perspiration, and to invigorating the whole constitution—which can only be speedily and thoroughly effected by the Thomsonian plan of treatment. How many valuable lives might be saved by such a method, that are almost daily sacrificed to the effect of mineral poisons, administered under the name of *Medicine*. x.

TEMPERANCE.—The virtue of temperance in the use of food, is too little practised by many, who, at the same time, would be shocked by the charge of excess in the use of strong drink. Yet intemperance in eating is, perhaps, no less mischievous than in drinking; and, when properly considered, equally disgraceful. Excess in the use of food begins at a point far short of that brutal intemperance which shocks every beholder; it begins soon after hunger is appeased, and the animal spirits are refreshed; it begins when the otherwise satiated appetite must be tempted by variety and by dainties: it begins when a person begins to feel oppression. For my part, when I behold a fashionable table, set out in all its magnificence, I fancy that I see gout and dropsies, fevers and lethargies, with other innumerable distempers, lying in ambuscade among the dishes.—[Addison.]

CALOMEL ROUTED.—The Medical and Surgical Journal says:—“A physician of Baltimore, twenty years ago, being then in great practice, used from eight to ten pounds of calomel yearly. At present one of the most extensive apothecaries in that city, does not dispense yearly, more than three pounds! This is an important fact for the Thomsonians to stereotype.” It is so—and a gratifying one too.

ELECTRO MAGNETISM.—We have before given several articles in the Courier, in regard to Mr. Davenport’s machinery, intended to display the almost incredible power of electro-magnetism.—For several weeks, this machinery has been on exhibition at the Masonic Hall in this city. Great numbers of our scientific citizens have visited it. Our friend the editor of the National Gazette—well remarks that it is impossible while gazing on the mysterious power of such an invisible agent as electro-magnetism, shown with startling truth in the machinery in question, not to feel proud that American genius was the first to direct it thus—to grasp the subtle element and mould it to man’s use. But we shall not dilate on this theme, as a learned scientific friend has favored us with the following communication:

“The exhibition of Mr. Davenport’s machinery, at Masonic Hall, must satisfy the most sceptical of the reality and importance of this new moving power, which bids fair to supercede the use of steam, in much less time than the latter required to be brought into general use. Of all the discoveries hitherto made use of by mankind, we deem this one of the most wonderful: as the principle on which it rests, is among the most mysterious in nature. The spectator sees two wires extending from the small cylindrical galvanic battery, by connecting which properly with the machine, an axle bearing one or more electro-magnets, is made to revolve with surprising velocity, and a palpable force, which however may be momentarily arrested, and inverted as soon, by merely changing the points of contents. To this force there is no limit except in the weight and size of the machinery, so that the power thus obtained, may be increased or multiplied beyond any assignable limit, and sufficient for any purposes for which power can be required. The same electro-magnet which has suspended a weight of 2000 pounds, may be made to exert a corresponding force in producing the rotation, varying only with its variable distance from the other magnet. It is impossible, by mere description, to give an idea of this machinery; but we would recommend to all who are interested in the curiosities of science, or the improvement of practical mechanics, to visit this exhibition, and see for themselves.”—[Philadelphia Courier.]

A BOY WITHOUT ARMS OR LEGS.—Mr. Manual Byram, a poor man of Chester, Morris county, has a child about two years old, without arms or legs, but having the usual natural abilities of children of that age, he will cross the floor quite rapidly, in a motion between rocking and rolling.—The Jerseyman says there is at the right shoulder a protuberance similar to an arm from a shoulder to the elbow, at the end of which is a small fleshy projection something of the shape of a finger with which it takes up small articles from the floor or will hold a stick.—[Newark Advertiser.]

SOBER EXCESS, in which we may indulge, by eating and drinking a little too much at every day’s dinner, and every night’s supper, more effectually undermines the health, than those more rare excesses by which others now and then break in upon a life of general sobriety.—[Hannah More.]

REMARKABLE PHENOMENON.—The Long Island Inquirer, of the 13th, gives an almost supernatural narration of the corpse of a young lady which was exhumed a few days since in Hempstead, for reinterment in another spot. The coffin was in a good state of preservation—and on examination of the corpse, which yet presented its original shape, there were found to be growing from its surface a vegetable substance, in the shape of filaments of grass, but of a whitish color, with a small butt on the end of each one. These spires of grass had risen from various parts of the face, the forehead, upper lip, and cheeks. Several were plucked, and are now in the possession of the gentleman who informed the editor of this remarkable fact.

It is well known that in all dry, gravelly soils, like that of Hempstead plains, the body undergoes little or no decomposition even after the lapse of centuries. Under the tower of the church of St. Michael, at Bordeaux, (the famous *grave* or gravelly country which raises the choice wines,) bodies are shown that are dried into mummies, and are several hundred years old; their features, expression, &c. still remaining. The same, we believe, exists in a church at Palermo, as described so graphically in one of N. P. Willis's letters. In the above case, however, the fluids of the body appear to have been preserved, and to have afforded nutriment to the invisible germs of some of those *cryptogamous* plants whose propagation is but little understood.

After all, however, the phenomenon may have been owing to Brandreth's Grandfather's pills!

GRIMMIANA.—"We have lately lost a physician named Renard, the Esculapius of his part of Paris. One of his devoted female patients declared, in a large circle, that he was the *first* physician in Paris. "True," said a wit, "if you enter by the pore of St. Antoine." Renard lived close to it.

This Renard, in one of his visits to a patient, found him engaged at piquet with an old Abbe, who seemed quite at his ease, and unconscious that any thing was the matter with him. Renard looked at him very earnestly, and then exclaimed,—“For God's sake, Sir, go home immediately, and have yourself bled: you have not a moment to lose.” The Abbe remained in motionless astonishment, but was taken up and carried home. Renard visited him, bled him three times, at very short intervals, and gave him an emetic; but there was no change for better. An express was sent to his brother in the country; on the third day he arrived in the utmost haste and agitation, and being told that his brother was at the point of death, asked the nature of his complaint. Renard told him that the patient, without perceiving it, had been attacked with apoplexy, which he, (Renard) had fortunately discovered from observing that his mouth was drawn aside; that he had, in consequence, made use of the usual remedies. “Great God, Sir,” said this man, “it is nearly sixty years since my brother has had that twist in his mouth.” “Why the devil,” said the Doctor, “did they not tell me so then?” and he marched off, without stopping to see the effect of his emetic.

J. A. Brown's communication shall be attended to on the return of the editor.

OUR ENEMIES.—The “faculty” are every where alarmed, and the members of the “regular medical profession” are being driven into terror at the spread of useful medical knowledge among the people. They do not desire that their malpractices should be made known; they dread the exposure of their dark deeds, and to save themselves from the indignation, scorn and contempt of an outraged community, they resort to low fabrications, the most abominable falsehoods, and to suits at law, for the purpose of lessening the influence and destroying the growing power of the advocates of medical revolution. The people have too long submitted to the tyranny, extortion and ignorance of a bloated and puffed up, organized band of public extortioners, who have killed thousands of our citizens by poisons, and who have robbed the widow and orphan with a remorseless hardness deserving of public execration. It may be said that we are too severe, but those who will inquire into the desolation which the Goths of the regular faculty have every where spread, will acknowledge that we cannot employ any language sufficiently strong to express the gross impositions and deadly influence, which this unprincipled band have every where practised for a long time with impunity. Our motto is “*Knowledge for the People*,” so that they can judge and decide for themselves. We scorn all secrecy—we abhor all mystery—our cause requires no concealment—we court fair investigation—we solicit inquiry—sure that every step which is taken in the examination, leads into the meridian light of eternal truth. Let our friends urge their neighbors to examine into the ignorance and tyranny of a large portion of the regular faculty—so that the wives, sons, and daughters of our fellow citizens may be saved from the relentless and merciless hands of the “faculty.”—[Botanic Sentinel.]

SKIN AND STOMACH.—Let these two important organs be attended to in a proper manner, and all the diseases of summer, cholera included, will be avoided. The kind attention to the skin consists in daily frictions with a coarse towel or a flesh brush—the steam or warm bath twice, or at least once a week. The stomach will have justice done it by an avoidance of all kinds of alcoholic drinks; the moderate use of tea and coffee, if such be habitually taken; a due proportion of well boiled vegetables with meat roasted or boiled—and occasionally, in sanguine temperaments, a moderate share of cooked fruits—to the exclusion however, of cherries and plums, if you please. Neither fruit, nor any new or unaccustomed article of diet whatever, should be taken *in the evening*.

CASE OF ERYSIPELAS CURED.

Boston, Feb. 8th, 1838.

This is to certify that I have been troubled with Erysipelas or St. Anthony's Fire, for nearly eleven months. I had taken considerable medicine from the regulars, but found no relief. I was then advised by a friend to try the Thomsonian remedies. I did so, and was cured in twelve days. I rejoice to state that my health has been perfectly good ever since.

Mr. Editor, I wish you would publish the above as an act of justice to the public, as well as to Dr. Wm. Clark, at whose Infirmary the above cure was performed.

CHAS. ALFRED RALLEY.

THE CHOLERA IN AFRICA.—The cholera has just broken out in the Dey's Hospital at Algiers. On the 14th of October, 17 cases and 9 deaths were reported. At Bona, where the epidemic has been prevailing for some time, the number of cases on the 17th of October, had amounted to 323, the deaths to 180. One of the most curious points in the history of the Asiatic cholera is, perhaps, the steady proportion of deaths to cases which may be observed to have occurred in all parts of the world, and in all climates. This fact proves how very little has as yet been done in the treatment of the disease.—[London Lancet, copied by Bost. M. & S. Journal.]

THOMSON'S DISCOVERIES.—There is nothing in the history of quackery, to be at all compared to Thomson's discoveries. Every thing in his narrative carries with it the air and face of an honest man, acting for the good of his country. If it shall be found, on a universal trial, that his new system is as beneficial as its high and early promise has inspired, his country never can repay, nor the world calculate the price.—[Dr. Robinson.]

ARTIFICIAL LIMBS.—It is stated in the Long Island Star, that Mr. James Kent, of Brooklyn, has succeeded in manufacturing artificial limbs for a young lady 19 years of age, residing in Jersey City, who was born without limbs from the knee joint. She is now able to walk some distance, with the aid of a companion, and it is thought she will soon "go alone."

DOCTORS MILITANT.—The number of distinguished medical men engaged in the Canada wars is incredible—to wit: Drs. Rolph, Morrison and Duncombe in Upper, and Drs. W. Nelson, Cote, &c., in Lower Canada, all leading and principal personages. They have determined to phlebotomize with the sword in lieu of the lancet. Doctors are familiar with death, and in most military combats they have evinced great coolness and intrepidity.—[N. Orl. American.]

DREAMING.—Dreaming is a diseased action of the nervous system, and is either occasioned by sympathy with the stomach, or by a morbid irritability of the brain. Intemperate and diseased persons are more liable to dream than healthy ones; and if a person is in the constant habit of dreaming, he may be confident that he is not in a healthy state, and will find it necessary to regulate his diet and control his passions.

CALOMEL.—Dr. Rush, in that emphatic style peculiar to himself, called mercury the *Samson* of medicine. In the hands of the faculty, says a late writer, it may indeed, be compared to Samson—"for I verily believe they have slain more Americans with it, than ever Samson slew of the Philistines. The Israelite slew his thousands, but the mineralizers have slain their tens of thousands."

SICKNESS.—Probably there is not a case of sickness which if we could fully know all the previous character, history and condition of the patient, might not be satisfactorily traced to the violation of some of the great laws of life.

TELESCOPES.—It is said the use of telescopes was first discovered by one Hansen, a spectacle maker, whose children, playing in the shop, casually placed a convex and concave glass in such a manner, that, by looking through them at the weather-cock, they observed that it appeared much larger and nearer than usual, and, by their expressions of surprise, excited the attention of their father who soon obtained great credit for this useful discovery. [Doubtful.]

STUDY OF NATURE.—However thoughtlessly we may proceed along in our daily walks, there is yet a world of wonders around us. There is order too in every thing. The little worm we tread upon has its manners or its habitudes; and it is a link in that chain of being which rises from the dust, and ascends to the purest specimens of humanity. A hundred life-times would be a term too short to exhaust the wonders that surround us every moment of existence.

JOKE.—"What did Mr. Q—— die of?" asked a simple person. "Of a complication of disorders," replied his friend. "How do you describe that complication, my good sir?" "He died," rejoined the other, "of two physicians, an apothecary, and a surgeon."

GOOD ADVICE.—An aged man on his death bed, thus addressed his children: "My children I am dying, and have not strength to exhort you,—follow my example; live honestly, deal justly, and—keep clear of the doctors!"

Notice is hereby given, that I have revoked the agency of T. H. CARR, of Belfast, Me., and that he is no longer an agent of mine. The public will be on their guard, and not be deceived.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

Boston, January 27, 1838.

PROSPECTUS

Of the second volume of the SOUTHERN BOTANIC JOURNAL, published in Charleston, S. C.

EDITED BY D. F. NARDIN.

It is deemed useless to urge the superiority of the Thomsonian system over other medical systems now extant, or those that have been in vogue before the present period of time. Nor is it now necessary to apprise the public that the *Southern Botanic Journal* is exclusively devoted to the support of the former. We have only to say that the second volume will be a continuation of the plan followed in the first, namely, to vindicate the cause of Thomsonism and refute some of the many attacks made upon the system and its practitioners, by those who are opposed to it; to correct some of the many false statements made against it; to collect and report matters of fact in regard to the practice; to expose the views of Dr. Thomson in philosophical points of view, and to show the manner they can be put in *practice* for the cure of the many forms which disease assumes to destroy life in the human frame.

In pursuing the course marked out before us, we have necessarily to discuss subjects that will appear uninteresting to many, and perhaps unpleasant to some; these are not unfrequently trying to our feelings. In consequence of this, but a small portion of the *Journal* will be devoted to controversy, and as much as possible to the *practical* part of medicine, as free from the notions of former or of the present theorists, as is consistent with the plan of the work. Medicine without theory,—without system, would be but a monster in the arts, totally un-

suited to the human mind, and inapplicable to useful purposes. Although much harm has no doubt resulted to the world from false theories in medicine, yet this acknowledged evil has not driven from it reasoning by induction, but it has caused many changes in the theories or systems that have successively predominated in medicine. The mischief that has resulted from theorizing, has always sprung from false data; these must necessarily lead to wrong conclusions, and consequently to a detrimental practice. That there are many false data now, as bottoming facts upon which the fashionable practice is based, we firmly believe. To expose these, and show the more certain ones on which we rest, will also occupy some of the pages of the Journal. Although this subject is certainly of great importance, yet we shall limit its extent to a small portion of the work, because we are not writing to the few learned in the rubbish of wornout notions, nor these skilled in scientific lore. We intend to make this a work for the *people* at large; and while we shall occasionally endeavor to give matter for the former to think upon, we will endeavor to remember that the mass of our readers should not be excluded from the participation in the views of different theories by technicalities and high sounding names.

In our polemical discussions we will endeavor to always keep our feelings under the guidance of reason and never act as an aggressor, but always on the defensive, and then never suffer our prejudices to make us swerve from the path of truth and duty.

As the practice and theory of medicine must be based upon observations at the bedside of the sick, and as this strictly speaking can alone be called useful, we will endeavor that the report of cases, and the manner of treating them shall fill a great portion of the Journal.

The necessity of a work of this kind in the South has long been felt by all the friends of the system in this part of our republic, and it is deemed superfluous to urge it here.

TERMS.—The Southern Botanic Journal will be issued every other Saturday, in Charleston, S.C., each number containing 16 octavo pages on a super-royal sheet. The cover will serve as a wrapper for each number, and of course will not be subject to any postage. Subscription price two dollars and fifty cent per annum, (invariably) and for twenty-six numbers—making a volume of 416 pages: with a title page and index alphabetically arranged.

Editors who are disposed will please give the above a few insertions.

KARDIN, J. L. WOOD, } Pub-
& WM. CARLISLE. } lishers.

P.S.—The friends of the Botanic system, are respectfully solicited to lend their aid in procuring subscriptions for the Journal.
December 23, 1827.

Pure Thomsonian Medicines, prepared by Doctor Samuel Thomson himself, will be kept constantly for sale, at wholesale or retail, by JONAS W. CHAPMAN, (Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson,) at the New England General Depot, No. 40, Salem-street, Boston. Also—Family Rights and Robinson's Lectures.

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By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, Printer and Publisher.

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THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME III.]

BOSTON, MARCH 15, 1838.

[NUMBER 10.]

[From the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel.]

THOMSONIAN MEETING.

A stated meeting of the Thomsonians, and those favorable to the Thomsonian system, was held in this city on Wednesday evening, Jan. 24, in the public hall, at the N. E. corner of Eighth and Chesnut streets.

Dr. JOHN PIERCE was called to the chair.

The meeting was large and respectable; and we are glad to announce that a number of ladies were present.

The chairman introduced Major Fraily of Baltimore, to the meeting, who delivered an excellent address, which was listened to attentively by all present.

On motion it was Resolved, That a copy of the speech be procured for publication in the botanic papers.

The chairman then gave an interesting account of his official visit to Baltimore, in relation to Dr. Frost and his anticipated new trial, and read the proceedings of a spirited meeting, which had been held in that city during his stay. In the course of his remarks, he named several gentlemen in Baltimore, who had contributed liberally towards defraying the expenses of a new trial.

On motion, it was Resolved, That the proceedings of a subsequent meeting, held by the Thomsonians in Baltimore, should be read.

The following are among the resolutions which were adopted on that occasion, and we regret that our limits will not permit us to give them at length.

RESOLVED, That this meeting heartily concur in the sentiments and views of our brethren in the several sections of the United States, in relation to the partial and unjust decision of the jury in the case of Dr. Richard K. Frost of the city of New York, for causing, as is alleged in the indictment, the death of Tiberius G. French, by the administration of deleterious medicines.

RESOLVED, That the official conduct of the Recorder of the court, Richard Riker, in his extraordinary charge to the jury, evinced a degree of reckless partiality and blind prejudice, utterly inconsistent with the character of a sober, upright, independent, or sane judge, and without a parallel in the history of American jurisprudence, meriting the unqualified reprobation of every friend to our free republican institutions.

RESOLVED, That we sincerely sympathize with Dr. R. K. Frost for his sufferings in the cause of medical reform; and view with contempt the futile efforts of the faculty to arrest the progress and final triumph of our system.

RESOLVED, That we will aid Dr. Richard K. Frost in his laudable efforts to secure a full, free, and impartial trial, before a tribunal competent to judge between the validity of testimony delivered under the sanction of an oath and universally known by the friends of the Thomsonian system from experience, as true; and the mere *opinion* of the regular medical faculty gleaned from authors who reported the *opinions* of others as ignorant as themselves.

VOL. III.—10

RESOLVED, That to accomplish the object of the preceding resolution, subscriptions be opened and donations solicited from the members of the society, from holders of family rights, and all who are friendly to medical reform; that those disposed now to contribute be respectfully solicited to hand their contributions to the treasurer, *Folger Pope*, and that E. Larabee, M. Perine, Geo. Evans, F. Pope, and Thos. Morgan, be a committee to further the object after the adjournment.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of the society and of this meeting be presented by the president to Dr. *Pearce*, for the able manner in which he portrayed the outrage committed upon the rights of a free people, in the person of Dr. R. K. Frost, by a partial and prejudicial, if not dotard judge, and a wicked combination of medical monopolists, who may kill, either through ignorance, negligence, or design, with impunity, because shielded by a law which sanctions the use of *murderous* remedial agents, or *life taking weapons*.

RESOLVED, That the proceedings be published in the several botanic and other journals, not unfriendly to the Thomsonian system of medical practice.

On motion of Dr. Plummer, a letter from Mrs. Ann MacDonough, addressed to the Philadelphia Thomsonian society, was received, and ordered to be read. We present it to our readers with pride and pleasure, and hope that the suggestions of this estimable lady may be speedily carried into effect.

Philadelphia, Jan. 24, 1838.

Suggestions for the considerations of this honorable society, designed for the benefit of Dr. Frost.

Let all the members of the Thomsonian societies throughout the United States contribute *SIX CENTS* each, and as much more as they may choose, to be paid over to the respective societies, and the expenses of Dr. Frost's trial be deducted therefrom; or should a verdict be rendered against Dr. Frost, let the sum of \$3000 be given out of said fund to Dr. Frost's family; and if Dr. Frost should gain the suit, let the sum of \$1000 be appropriated to him for his loss of time and anxiety of mind. And if there is any surplus, let it be set apart for some similar occasion hereafter. Let it be the duty also, of every Thomsonian to be active in collecting the sum of *SIX CENTS* from each of those friendly to the Thomsonian cause.

Three millions of Thomsonians, at *six cents* each, would yield \$180,000. To follow up these suggestions, would, in my opinion, elevate the Thomsonian practice to that sphere of eminence which it merits; and its truths would extend from shore to shore, until its opponents would cease to be heard of.

(Signed) ANNA McDONOUGH,
A Thomsonian Member.

On motion of Dr. Armstrong, a committee was appointed to draft resolutions expressive of the opinions of this meeting.

After a recess of a few minutes, said committee reported the following preamble and resolutions.

Whereas, this meeting has received official inform-

ation, through our agent, Dr. Pearce, appointed at a former meeting, to visit the friends of the Thomsonian system in the city of Baltimore, and in accordance with the design of his appointment, a meeting of the Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society of Maryland, and the friends of the cause, was held, at which resolutions were adopted expressive of their opinions of the late trial of Dr. R. K. Frost in New York, and declarative of their determination to sustain the said Dr. R. K. Frost, should a new trial in his case be had: Therefore

RESOLVED, That this meeting heartily concur in the opinions entertained by the Thomsonians of Baltimore concerning the aforesaid trial.

RESOLVED, That we view with satisfaction the decisive measures taken by the Thomsonians of Baltimore to sustain Dr. R. K. Frost, in raising collections to defray the expenses of a new trial should one be had.

RESOLVED, That we highly approve of the publication of an impartial report of the aforesaid late trial, and that a committee of three be appointed to forward to each of the most eminent Thomsonian practitioners in the United States, copies of said report, to be paid for out of the treasury of this meeting.

RESOLVED, That the thanks of this meeting be returned to Major Fraley, of Baltimore, for his able address this evening, and also to our agent, Dr. Pearce, for the faithful discharge of the duties assigned him.

On motion of Dr. Plummer, it was Resolved, That a committee of five persons be appointed to co-operate with the Thomsonians in New York, in reference to the anticipated new trial of Dr. Frost.

The following gentlemen were chosen for said committee: Dr. Plummer, Dr. Armstrong, Dr. Comfort, Edmund Grundy, and Dr. Pearce.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to meet at the same place, on Wednesday evening, January 31st, at 7 o'clock.

[From the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel.]

CERTIFICATE — INTERMITTENT FEVER. — I do hereby certify, that in the beginning of November last, my little son George, nearly two years old, was taken sick with what the doctor called intermittent fever. He was attended by Dr. Janney of this city. He continued to grow worse, until symptoms of dropsy of the brain gradually appeared; and at the expiration of about two weeks, he was extremely ill and very much emaciated. He was leeches, blistered, purged, &c. but all to no purpose; the progress of the disease was not in the least arrested; and the Dr. said the symptoms were so unfavorable that he could not flatter himself with any hope of a cure—that dropsy of the brain was an incurable complaint; but he recommended cupping on the spine to ease the convulsions. Indeed, it appeared to us all, as a moral certainty, that the child would die. In this state of anxiety and suspense, we were advised to call on Dr. Comfort, who commenced with the usual Thomsonian course of treatment, the effects of which were truly astonishing to myself and family, and in a few days the child was out of danger. From two to three teaspoonful of lobelia were administered at a time, and the dose frequently repeated. The child is now in perfect health.

(Signed)

ROBERT HOWARD.

Kessler's Alley, Philadelphia, Dec. 29, 1837.

[From the Medical Reformer.]

REMARKS ON INFLAMMATION.

REPORTS OF CASES.

CASE OF CANGRENE, CURED UNDER THE STIMULATING TREATMENT.—Mrs. Stewart, a lady of this place, sent for us to visit her. When we called, we found her system much excited—she was in great pain, and had not been able to rest for the last three nights. Inflammation had commenced from a burn near the second joint of the finger; the burn was slight, and attracted but little attention until the inflammation commenced. Her finger was *sphacelus* and black, the hand much swollen, and in streaks of a dark or yellowish tinge. The swelling had already advanced as far as the elbow—the pain extended to the shoulder. The nervous system was much excited, and a high degree of irritative fever—pulse small and quick. We asked her whether she would be willing to have it amputated, to which she answered, that she would submit to any operation that would save her life.

The first object to be effected in the management of this case, was to restore the general system, and arrest the dangerous progress of the disease. For this purpose composition and nerve powders were given freely, the hand and arm well bathed with No. 6, and a poultice of slippery elm applied from the hand to the elbow, to be wet frequently with cold water, and as often as the poultice was renewed to bathe it with No. 6. We called to see her in the afternoon and found her better. The powders had been continued, to which we then added lobelia and No. 6; this was repeated until the stomach was thoroughly evacuated, and a freer perspiration produced—her nerves soon became composed, and she got a night's rest. We called in the morning, and found the skin again dry, and some fever—the pain began to return—the powders were given more freely, and in the evening the lobelia again administered with the most happy result. A profuse perspiration was produced, pain and fever disappeared, and by the next morning the swelling was entirely gone, and the dead black flesh soon began to slough off. The general health, with tonics, soon restored, and by the application of the 3d preparation of lobelia, canker tea and salve, the finger soon healed.—This is the Thomsonian substitute for amputation.

I once advised a similar course in a case of *Aneurism*, where it was thought that amputation was the only alternative. I gave my treatment and success in similar cases, and my reasons for pursuing such a course; they were adhered to by a talented and respectable physician, and the treatment pursued soon relieved the patient. If physicians were generally so high minded and honest as to give reason fair play, and not to oppose a practice, though successful, because they find it not written in their books, Thomsonians would escape much abuse and censure which they now unjustly have to bear.

I will now give you a case treated under the Antiphlogistic treatment. Mr. C., a citizen of this place, from an inflammation of the toe, occasioned by the irritation of the shoe, was constrained by his physicians to have the toe taken off; and in spite of all their efforts to heal the toe, it continued to wear a more dangerous aspect, and the disease advanced under the most rigid course of depleting means, until a second amputation was thought advisable. The leg was next removed, but to no effect; the disease con-

tinued to progress, and soon terminated in death. I mention not this case, for the purpose of reflecting or casting an odium on the physicians who attended and managed the case; they were respectable and intelligent, and no doubt every thing on their part was done, that they thought calculated to afford relief. But alas! their means often, very often fail in arresting inflammation, or curing the inflammatory diseases. Thomsonians are frequently chided by the *Mineralists*, for using stimulating medicines in inflammatory diseases; and yet, what are the means recommended by the most talented of the profession? A gargle of salt and pepper, and sometimes mustard is added in putrid sore throat, all highly stimulating means, and applied too to the diseased part, and that under a high state of inflammation! What inconsistency! Where there is already too much heat add more! Absurd, says the physician, when directed to be taken into an inflamed stomach; yet, when applied to the throat in a similar situation, it acts like a charm.

The writer of this article has been accused of sinning against light and knowledge, for prescribing stimulating medicines in inflammatory fever. The accuser was soon found participating in the same transgression, for he discovered that they cured patients that he had given over to die—he was honest enough to change his treatment, though contrary to his theory. But why is it that stimulating medicines will relieve an inflamed stomach, and what is the cause of inflammation? Many have conjectured on this subject since Galen; but their conclusions amount to nothing! The commonly received opinion is a morbid dilatation and increased action of such arteries as lead and are distributed to the inflamed part; but this does not at all explain the cause of inflammation. It tells nothing about the cause that excites these arteries or increases their action, consequently leaves us as wise as we were before. Inflammation may truly be said to be an effort of nature to remove from the system some irritating matter, or some offending cause, which is injurious to health, and will most generally relieve itself. But when there is a general diseased state of the fluids, or the system filled with diseased humor, nature is sometimes overpowered, and her efforts to heal frustrated. To prevent this, should be the business of every physician; and on this point, physicians are too often deficient—for irritation naturally draws disease, and if the system be filled with disease, and the diseased part has assumed an inflammatory action of the system, the more power you give to the inflammatory action. By this means, the diseased humors concentrate to the diseased part, and consequently the inflammation continues to spread; and though it may be in an extreme part of the system, by a constant accumulation of matter, it soon reaches the vitals and terminates in death, as was the issue in the latter case; and would probably have been in the former, had a similar course been pursued.

Our course, as you have seen, is quite to the reverse of that of the old practice—for while we use the means most likely to diminish the action in the diseased part, we raise the general action of the system, and as soon as the action becomes equal, the inflammation disappears. Or even if this cannot be effected, we prevent the accumulation of humor to the diseased part, by giving nature the power to rid


herself of the offending matter by suppuration. If perspiration is effected, the surplus matter is at once discharged through this channel, and nature relieved of an enemy which is lurking in the system, and only awaiting an opportunity to manifest its destructive influence. The propriety of our practice, we think, cannot fail to be admitted by those who will examine the subject; at least, we shall continue a similar course of treatment, though we be accused of inconsistency, until our accusers present us with a more rational theory, and a more successful practice. We have not set down to give a treatise on inflammation, but only to notice some facts which we have observed in practice—that stimulating medicines will relieve an inflamed stomach, is a fact that we have often seen verified. But as practice without theory is quackery—and to think is to theorise—we will give a few thoughts on the subject. The circulation in any part being stopped, the blood becomes matter in six hours, according to medical authors. The most sudden deaths that occur, occasioned by an inflammation of the stomach, are caused from taking large draughts of cold water, or other cold fluid, into the stomach. The circulation being checked, inflammation commences. What is the rational course to pursue in such a case? Is it to add still more cold and keep the stomach from assuming an increased action, and thereby retain in it the inflammatory and destructive matter, or would it not be far more rational to give diffusive stimulants, such as would assist the stomach in dispelling and dislodging noxious and injurious matter, and throwing it into the general circulation, which would be to equalize the system—for to equalize is to cure, says Rush.

A few remarks from a medical writer on this subject, and we are done.

“Our most valuable remedies against inflammation,” says an English author, “are but ill adapted to that state of disease. They do not act directly on the diseased part, the action is only indirect, therefore it is imperfect. Bleeding, the best of them, is in this predicament—the direct action of bleeding is only to lessen the quantity of blood.”

Bleeding, the best means to stop inflammation, and this only to lessen the quantity of the vital fluid and produce debility! Youth and strength is a favorable *prognosis* of recovery from external injuries, and yet physicians will pursue an antiphlogistic treatment, which consist in the employment of purgatives, diaphoretics and dilutents, with starving and the lancet. Now, if this treatment be correct, the less energy or life in the system, the less danger to be apprehended from an injury. But observation proves, that it is not correct, for in palsied affections, where there is little animation, injuries seldom, if ever cure, and are often attended with the worst of consequences. So much for consistency and science! If inflammation or mortification can be arrested without such dangerous debility, none will have the stupidity to deny but that it is safer and much better. That it can we assert, and pledge ourselves to prove the assertion.

It is customary to amputate a limb in cases of mortification; but with what propriety we are unable to decide, as it is very easy to arrest it by simple means, and even should cases sometimes occur, where mortification could not be stopped, we have no evidence that they could be cured by amputation, as many die after the use of the knife.—*M. Griffith.*
Augusta, Ga., Jan. 5th, 1838.

 The following are further particulars of the case referred to in our last under the head of *Melancholy Accident*:

FATAL IGNORANCE.—Under this head we quote from a Baltimore paper, the distressing recital which follows. It shows a deplorable and most reprehensible carelessness on the part of the apothecary, who is justly chargeable with the death of a most unfortunate lady. An additional solemnity and interest impress the occurrence from the fact, that the hapless victim of professional incompetence, as has been stated, was reluctant to take the deadly prescription, and even caused it to be returned, and a renewed assurance to be given that all was right, before she would receive it. What miserable fatuity could have prompted the apothecary, under such precautionary circumstances, to repeat his ignorant declaration, that what had been given was the phosphate of soda? It is not too much to say, that for this very act, professional ruin is a poor retribution. This is the second case of the sort which has occurred within a few months—one in New York, and the last in Baltimore,—and the newspapers teem with those which happened elsewhere.

In connection with this occurrence, we may be allowed to say a word with respect to the hurried *hieroglyphical* manner in which physicians write their prescriptions. How often does it happen, that on the turn of some mysterious mark or initial, depends the patient's life or death! In all cases, too much carefulness and accuracy cannot be practised. Haste in writing a prescription followed by haste on the part of the druggist, converts the healing offices of the former, into the act of a destroying angel. Let us hope that these repeated warnings, though they carry death and dismay into many a household, may be productive of that caution which combined with that pathological skill, shall rather avert the shaft of Death, than hasten his gloomy ravages.—[Philadelphia Gazette.

FATAL IGNORANCE.—A most distressing occurrence took place on Saturday, arising from the almost incredible ignorance of an apothecary, by which an amiable and interesting lady has been hurried to the grave, and her family plunged in inconsolable distress. Mrs. Rutter, a lady residing in the western part of the city, had been severely indisposed with an affection of the stomach, but on Thursday last was pronounced by her physician to be in a state of convalescence. It was considered necessary for her to take some very mild aperient medicine, and accordingly on Friday a dose of Seidlitz powders was prescribed. The following day the patient observed to her physician, that she would prefer some other medicine of a similar character, as the quantity of gas disengaged in mixing the Seidlitz powders, was disagreeable to her. He consented, and wrote a prescription for two ounces of "Phosphate of Soda," an extremely mild purgative, and one similar in taste to common salt, of which he directed her to take one table-spoonful. The prescription was taken to an apothecary, who gave the bearer a quantity of whitish powder, which he said was what the prescription called for. Mrs. R. on seeing what was brought, refused to take it, observing that she was sure there must be some mistake, as the doctor had told her the medicine was similar to common salt, and this was nothing like it. To be certain on so

important a matter, her mother went herself to the apothecary's, and asked if there had not been a mistake. He again examined the prescription and the article he had put up, and declared that all was right, and to ascertain the proper dose of the article, which he supposed was Phosphate of Soda, he referred to the Dispensatory, and told her that two ounces, the quantity ordered, was not too large a dose. Now perfectly assured, Mrs. R.'s mother returned, and a table-spoonful of the powder was mixed with water and swallowed by Mrs. R. The moment she did so, the conviction flashed across her mind that she was poisoned, and a messenger was despatched for the physician. By the time he arrived she was almost in a state of collapse, and exhibited symptoms of violent irritation of the stomach. Every means consistent with her debilitated state of body were taken to relieve her, and the physician proceeded to ascertain the nature of the substance which had produced such a disastrous result. It was analyzed by a skillful chemist, who ascertained by five different processes that it was a salt of mercury, formed by the combination of ammonia and corrosive sublimate, and known by the name of *White Precipitate*. Justice to himself now compelled the physician to prove to the satisfaction of the patient's friends that he had not prescribed any thing of a deleterious nature. Accompanied by the husband of the lady, he went to the apothecary's store, and asked to see the bottle or drawer from which he had prepared the prescription. A bottle was handed to him, labelled on two sides, "Phosphat Sodæ," and which the apothecary said contained that substance, and was the one from which he had prepared the prescription. The substance it contained was compared with that sent to the lady, and found to be the same; it was also compared with the White Precipitate, and ascertained to be precisely similar. The apothecary still persisted that it was Phosphate of Soda, and could not be convinced of his error until it was shown to be insoluble in water. He then confessed his mistake. The unfortunate lady lingered until Sunday, when she expired, every effort to counteract the poison being unavailing.

Thus, but a twelvemonth after she had become a wife, at a time when the anxious cares of a devoted husband and affectionate mother and friends were about to be repaid by her restoration to health, was this young lady destroyed by the culpable, criminal negligence or unpardonable ignorance.—[Balt. Sun.

INSANITY.—The following is an instance of moral power exercised over a patient:—I once, says Dr. Trail, went into a room where there was a patient disposed to be violent. He immediately fastened the door, but at this I was not disconcerted, for the governor was on the outside with a key which would open it. I sat down beside him on the bed, when he asked me if I was not afraid.—"Afraid," I replied, "of what?" He said,—"Afraid of me! I have the strength of ten men in each arm!" I smiled, and told him that strong as he was I had a spell which could master him, and that, if I pleased, I could tie a knot upon him, and throw him out of the window. The extravagance of this boast evidently astonished him. He gave me his hand, and afterwards told the governor that Dr. Trail was a wonderful man, and had "immortal strength."—[Med. and Surg. Journal.

OPPOSITION TO IMPROVEMENT.

Perhaps there never has been a time, in the annals of history, when any one cause has met with more opposition, or the prejudices of the people so easily excited, as at the present against this unpopular, though useful system of medicine. The cause of which, must be obvious to every reflecting mind. The force of early education and long established habits have all to be overcome, as well as the deep and abiding influence of the various prejudices which lurk in the human heart. Yet, notwithstanding these apparently insurmountable difficulties, the system is becoming more popular in the estimation of the people, and millions are now ready to declare it the most safe and speedy in removing the various diseases of the human family. We know it is trying to the feelings of the great and learned, to accede to Dr. Thomson the merited reward of making discoveries in medicine, which are destined to supercede all others; "a man who had spent his life among the clouds of the valley, and himself but little superior to the dust he walked on—that he should pretend to make discoveries in the science of medicine, and *invent forms, and medicines, and rules*, to enlighten its exclusive and profound professors—is not to be endured by men, *proud of their attainments, and fortified by all the tenacity of system!*" But we believe the time is not very far distant, when this admission will be made by many, who now stand pre-eminently high in the profession; and we might add, that some at least, have already given their testimony in favor of Dr. Thomson's system—at the same time deploring the effects of their own. But many are dazzled with the splendors of learning, and the charms of high-sounding titles; hence much of the time of the medical student is taken up in acquiring a knowledge of the dead languages, instead of the nature and cure of disease; and it has, therefore, been remarked by Dr. Rush, that "those physicians generally become the most eminent, who have the soonest emancipated themselves from the tyranny of the schools of physic." "And," continues the same author, "the essential principles of medicine are very few; they are moreover plain! All the morbid effects of heat and cold, of eating and drinking and the exercises of the body and mind, may be taught with as much ease as the multiplication table. In support of this truth, let us look at the effects of the simplicity of the art of war, introduced into Europe; a few obvious principles have supplied the place of volumes on tactics. Private citizens have become great generals; peasants irresistible soldiers in a few weeks, even superior to their predecessors, after the instructions and exercise of fifteen or twenty years.

Let us strip our profession of every thing that looks like mystery and imposition, and clothe medical knowledge in a dress so simple and intelligible, that it may become a part of academical education in all our seminaries of learning. Truth is simple upon all subjects; and upon those essential to the general happiness of mankind, it is obvious to the meanest capacities. There is no man so simple that cannot be taught to cultivate grain; and there is no woman that cannot be taught to make it into bread. And shall the means of preserving our health, by the culture and preparation of aliment,

be so intelligible, and yet, the means of restoring it when lost, so obtruse, that we must take years to study, to discover and apply them? To suppose this, is to call in question the goodness of the Deity, and to believe that he acts without system and unity in his works. In thus recommending the general diffusion of medical knowledge by an academical education, let it not be supposed, that I wish to see the exercise of medicine abolished, as a regular profession. Surgical operations, and diseases which rarely occur, may require professional aid; but the knowledge necessary for those purposes is soon acquired; and two or three persons separated from other pursuits, would be sufficient to meet the demands of a city consisting of forty thousand people."—[Robinson.

A CHILD'S HAIR TURNED WHITE FROM FEAR.—Some years since while an American vessel was stationed at Norfolk, Virginia, Dr. D——, an amiable and intelligent man, who acted as a physician and surgeon, used frequently to lodge on shore at the house of a respectable lady, to whose only son, a child of four or five years old, the doctor had become strongly attached, from having discovered in him an extraordinary degree of precocity, and an interesting disposition. After some months, the vessel was again ordered to sea, and Dr. D—— parted with his little favorite with regret. More than a year elapsed when the same vessel returned to Norfolk, when the Doctor repaired to the house of his landlady to see his little protegee. The child flew to his embraces, delighted to see him. After the first caress was over:—"Why, my dear boy," said Dr. D——, patting his head as he spoke, "who has been powdering your hair?" "Nobody," replied the child, whose joy was turned to the most extravagant grief, and bursting into a passion of tears, he quitted the apartment. Dr. D—— sat in silent amazement, for the boy's hair was as white as the mountain snow. In a moment after the mother entered, and when the first gratulations were over he enquired the meaning of the last scene—saying to her, "what have you been doing to your son's hair?" "Nothing," sobbed she, and following the child's example, she weeping left the room. The next time he called, she was better able to account for the mystery; and informed him that a short time before, she had been aroused at midnight by the loud and piercing shrieks of her child; and on hastening to his bed, found him sitting up in it; his countenance wild with horror, and the whole surface of his body dripping with cold perspiration. On being made sensible of her presence, in a confused and incoherent manner, he told her that he had been visited by a frightful dream. The next day it was discovered that his hair was bleached as white as though he had lived a century. This mystery, for such it certainly may be considered, was not perfectly understood, till about three years since when by the dying confession of a relation, who was to inherit the property of the child at his decease, it was confessed that on the night when the boy imagined he had been visited by a dream, he had himself made an attempt to strangle him, but was deterred from the commission by the terrible screams of the child.

CATHARTICS.

Much has been said already on the subject of cathartic medicines, yet we do not think it exhausted. The Sentinel has hitherto sustained its character for thorough-going Thomsonism in this respect, by an unequivocal and uncompromising opposition to the administration of purgatives. We have not taken any part in the discussion which has lately occupied the minds of the Thomsonian fraternity, concerning the cathartic qualities of lobelia, because we have always conceived them to be merely suppositious; and as yet we have seen no cause to change this opinion, based, as it is, upon an experimental and critical examination of its effects on the human system. It is not our intention, however, on the present occasion, to revive the disputation of this point, but merely to direct the attention of our readers to the utter worthlessness of cathartics, and the invaluable utility of injections, in all cases which require an operation on the intestinal canal.

When we object to the exhibition of purgatives whose action is as gentle as is that of butternut and bitter root, it is too frequently supposed that we do so merely because Dr. Thomson disapproves of them. Howsoever much importance we may attach to the opinions of the founder of the botanic practice—and it certainly is not slight—we nevertheless enter our protest against this method of setting aside our arguments; for we hold it to be one of our inalienable rights to act in accordance with the dictates of our own judgment, even though that should differ from Dr. Thomson's.

The excitation of the peristaltic, vermicular, or worm-like motion of the intestines is considered essential to the healthy performance of their functions. But the question arises, how is this excitation to be accomplished? By the exhibition of a remedy possessing stimulant properties only? By one that will also empty the intestinal glands of their contents? Or by one that will remove the cause of the loss of peristaltic action? The answer is, by the last, certainly. Therefore, whatever be the indication, an injection prepared according to some one of Doctor Thomson's modes, as the circumstances of the case may require, is undoubtedly the best remedial agent that can be employed, for several reasons.

First, they act as a stimulus to the intestines.

Secondly, the aqueous portion of the injection will answer the ends of the secretions of the intestinal glands, without that state of depletion and exhaustion, induced in them by the operation of a cathartic.

Thirdly, an injection, by removing the cankerous coating of the mucous membrane of the intestines, lays open the muciparous glands to the action of the bile, which serves at the same time as a stimulant to these glands, and as an exciter of peristaltic motion.

Hence, in whatever light we view the subject, the administration of an injection is far preferable to that of a cathartic. But from several other considerations we think the opinion of Dr. Thomson correct in this particular.

The various organs of the human system are mutually dependent upon each other, to a greater or less extent, in the performance of their respec-

tive functions. Hence we may easily see how a derangement of the functions of one organ will induce a corresponding derangement of those of another, and the whole mystery of sympathetic action is at once revealed. Thus when the bowels become coated with canker, whether in its forming or more advanced stage, the process of digestion is impeded, because the chyle is not absorbed; the non-absorption of this fluid prevents the production of bile, and the stimulus of the biliary secretion being indispensably necessary to the peristaltic motion of the intestines and the regular expulsion of their contents, the bowels become constipated; while the retention of the excrementitious portion of the food, renders the coating of the intestines still more viscid in its consistence, more deleterious in its character, and more obstinate in its adhesion.

From all this then it will appear that although we might remove from the mouths of the absorbents, the canker with which they are clogged, by means of a cathartic, a stimulant will nevertheless be indicated to restore these vessels to their natural action, which is lost. Besides, the liver being torpid points out the use of such a stimulant as will not only act upon the intestines, but also on the general system. Holding this view of the subject, could we believe in the necessity of a purgative at all, we do not know but we should choose calomel, because while it would answer the end of butternut or bitter root, as a cathartic, it would, by its action on the liver, favor the secretion of bile, and, by consequence, the subsequent stimulation of the intestines. But it may be answered that bitter root, has been declared by Dr. Thomson himself as one of the best correctors of the bile with which he is acquainted. True, but some of the objections that may be urged against calomel, he now sees hold good in relation to bitter root, and therefore he rejects it entirely. Neither the one nor the other can remove the canker, and both will prove injurious by the exhaustion of the muciparous glands. Hence we disapprove the use of cathartics in any case.

But will the injections of Dr. Thomson have the desired effect in the removal of the obstructing matter from the absorbents, the stimulation of the glands of the mucous membrane of the intestines, and the restoration of the functions of the liver? We answer without hesitancy, from experience, they will.

It is said, however, that there is a certain portion of the intestines that cannot be reached by means of injections. We are astonished that any Thomsonian who has tried them, should make such an objection. Is it not a fact that lobelia given by injection will operate powerfully as an emetic? If then medicines given thus will reach higher than the intestines, is it not absurd to suppose they will not or cannot reach the higher portions of the intestines? We cannot extricate ourselves by saying, the lobelia has been absorbed and thus is taken into the general system and produces emetic effects; for if lobelia taken by injection, may, through the process of absorption, produce precisely similar effects as when swallowed, so may the anti-canker medicines, stimulants, and tonics.—[Phila. Botanic Sentinel.]

[From the Botanico-Medical Recorder.]

REPORT.

Of the Committee appointed by the Zelomathean Society of the Botanico-Medical College in Columbus, Ohio, to enquire into the circumstances connected with the trial and conviction of Dr. Frost of New York.

Your Committee, after an examination into the circumstances connected with Dr. Frost's conviction, beg leave to offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, That, in the opinion of this Society, Dr. Frost's treatment of T. G. French, so far as pursued, was both proper [except that he permitted the friends of Mr. French and sundry of the regular craft, to interrupt and thwart his benevolent efforts, which *we* would *never* have allowed. —Ed.] and philosophical; and such as every *truly* scientific physician would have pursued.

2. *Resolved*, That the testimony for Doct. Frost, so far as respects the innocence and valuable effects of Lobelia &c., is in accordance with our experience and philosophy.

Whereas, Dr. Cheeseman came in while Mr. French was in a "*gentle perspiration, and threw off the clothes from the patient, opened the doors and windows, and put out the fire, and thus exposed him to the cold damp air of a stormy evening*;" Therefore,

3. *Resolved*, That the death of T. G. French, is justly chargeable to the brutal conduct of Dr. CHEESEMAN.

4. *Resolved*, That the conduct of Doctor Cheeseman and his associates, towards Dr. Frost, is such as should be frowned upon by every lover of civil liberty, and should call forth the deep and abiding condemnation of every friend to our free institutions, whether enemies or friends to the Botanic System.

5. *Resolved*, That the tribunal of justice has been perverted by the Recorder of the city of New York, who, in charging the jury, endeavored to bias them against the accused.

6. *Resolved*, That the verdict of the jury, in the face of such plain evidence, clearly proves that they have, either wilfully or ignorantly, perjured themselves.

7. *Resolved*, That the testimony of the "licensed quacks," in relation to the effects of lobelia in the system, [the frequency of the pulse, the nature of oxalic acid, &c] proves their utter ignorance of the science they PROFESS.

8. *Resolved*, That, in the opinion of this Society, the trial of Dr. Frost is calculated to spread the system of medicine, which it was intended by its instigators to crush.

All of which were unanimously adopted, and ordered to be published in the Botanico-Medical Recorder.

Signed in behalf of the Society.

J. W. HARVEY, Pres't.

J. LAMBORN, Secretary.

CORNS.—The great secret in curing corns is, to make a softening application, for a long time, in order to soften, strengthen and heal the parts, which will in all cases cure. It is out of the question for any plaster ever to perform a cure, except on this principle; and the means which would prevent corns, will be the best cure—easy shoes.

[From the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel.]

THE PERJURED JUROR.—We stated in our last, that we would furnish affidavits in a future number, proving that one of the jurors, who sat upon the trial of Dr. Frost, had been guilty of perjury. Here they are:

City and County of New York, ss.

John Worthington being duly sworn, doth depose and say, that on Tuesday night, the evening before the jury sat on the trial of Richard K. Frost, this deponent was in the store of Charles Velly, near the foot of Warren street, that this deponent met there James E. Wood, who was summoned as a juror on the above mentioned trial of Richard K. Frost, at the time this deponent saw him, that he, James E. Wood, being then summoned as a juror, said to this deponent in the store, that he (Wood) did not believe in that mode of treatment (meaning the Thomsonian) and hoped Frost would be convicted.

JOHN M. WORTHINGTON.

Sworn before me, this 29th day of December, 1837.

WM. H. BOGARDUS, Commissioner of Deeds.

City and County of New York, ss.

Abraham Etting of the city of New York, ship joiner, being duly sworn, says that on the 17th day of December, 1837, this deponent was in the store of James E. Wood, at the corner of West and Warren streets, in this city, that at that time amongst other remarks, said Wood remarked that lobelia was a poison, and it killed sheep, and further this deponent heard said Wood say that any person who would administer lobelia to another, ought to be punished, and that he said "I expect Dr. Frost will be brought in guilty," and further the said Wood stated that he knew lobelia or Indian tobacco was poison, because by putting a piece of a leaf of it in his mouth it would vomit him.

And further, that several persons were at the same time in the store of said Wood, and that much conversation upon the subject of said Richard K. Frost's trial was held, which this deponent does not distinctly recollect. And further this deponent saith not.

ABRAHAM ETTING.

Sworn before me, this 29th day of December, 1837.

JOHN R. FLANAGAN, Commissioner of Deeds.

THE SPIDER.—A gentleman at Washington, has published in the Intelligencer the following account of a fact, which he says can be attested by many witnesses, and tends to corroborate other accounts of the strength and sagacity of spiders that have been thought incredible.

On Friday last, a spider was discovered by the workmen in the Red Creek paper mill, apparently in contact with a small black snake, about nine inches long. When first discovered the snake was snapping at the spider, and at each snap or jump of the snake, the spider lapped his web round the snake, and still kept looping him up to his fastening. This combat continued all day on Friday, and all Saturday until the evening, when the spider completely conquered and killed the snake. On Sunday he had him well lashed about the head, middle and tail, and had him hoisted 18 inches up in his web, where he is now hanging, and the spider feeding on him. What is remarkable, this spider is not bigger than a common fly.

DIPLOMA—OR REGULAR QUACKERY.—Among the *wonders* of the present age is the insatiation of the public mind in relation to the *University System of the Study of Medicine*: and it is still more a matter of wonder that the minds of our youth should tamely submit to the humbuggery of the *old theoretical school*; which their grandfathers confessed to be all folly—and which every philosophical and liberal mind has treated with silent contempt or open condemnation. To say nothing of the *immediate interest* of the **PROFESSORS** in the practice of a system of extortion, by which they amass princely fortunes; we advert to the striking fact that the **SCIENCE OF MEDICINE**, acknowledged to be one of exact and laborious progression, is the only one thrown out of the pale of *modern improvement*; and denied the benefit of that “march of mind,” which has been the boasted glory of the present age. It is, to say the least of it, most singular, that a *progressive science* depending for its excellence on the daily accumulation of facts, should be *shut up* in the musty systems of past centuries; and that ancient authority in matters of pure *theory*, should be made to supercede modern truth elicited from attested facts.—Why is all this? What is the object of preserving antiquated and exclusive ignorance? We answer that the motive is **AVARICE**—the object speedy aggrandisement from the practice of **EXCLUSIVE EXTORTION**.—For the same reason that the *Monks and Priests* of the middle ages objected to the translation of the *Bible*—do the **CHARTERED QUACKS** protest against the *light of Mind* being admitted to the cloistered cells of *Medicine*—it would *spoil their trade*!

When we consider that this *trade in Medical Lectures* by *Incorporated Quacks*, is made to thrive upon the agonies, afflictions, and *lives* of mankind—that according to the sum of the fortunes of *Professors*, is the sum of human misery—we may justly express wonder, that the body of the People do not rise in open revolt against an imposition so glaring, and an oppression so galling. Every man may have need of a physician—and if he call upon a *regular doctor* under the *present system*, may be cheated of his money, and robbed of his health, perhaps his *life*—and what is worse, the *lives* of his *children*, or their mother! A *system of Ignorance*, persisted in, because it ministers to the affluence of the **PROFESSORS**, who delude and mystify the *young* by their antiquated gabble, ought to provoke universal indignation—and excite stern and invincible opposition to its empty pretensions, and unmeaning gravity.—Let us rise superior to the antiquated dogmas of an ignorant age; and scout at that pompous *theory*, which is an insult to reason, and a contradiction of facts. A *diploma* to practice medicine—a *charter* to trade in money—an *ordination* to preach the gospel—are all absurdities of the same class—only worthy of a barbarous age, and equally an insult to reason, justice, truth, science, and benevolence.—[Philadelphia Democratic Herald.]

‘Times of calamity and confusion have ever been productive of great minds. The purest ore is produced in the hottest furnace, and the brightest thunderbolt is elicited from the darkest storm.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF ELECTRICAL EXCITEMENT.—Dr. Hosford, of Orford, N. H., relates in a recent No. of Silliman’s Journal, the case of a lady in that town who became unconsciously charged with electricity, at the time of the occurrence of an aurora borealis, on the 25th of January, 1837. This extraordinary state continued until the middle of the following May, during most of which time she was capable of giving electrical sparks to every conducting body that came within the sphere of her electrical influence. When her finger was brought within one sixteenth of an inch of a metallic body, a spark that was heard, seen and felt, passed every second. When seated motionless, with her feet on the iron stove hearth, three or four sparks per minute would pass to the stove, notwithstanding the insulation of her shoes and silk hosiery. When most favorably circumstanced, four sparks per minute, of one inch and a half, would pass from the end of her finger to a brass ball on the stove; these were quite brilliant, distinctly seen and heard in any part of a large room, and sharply felt when they passed to another person. These experiments were so often repeated that there was no doubt left of their actual occurrence. The lady had no internal evidence of this faculty, which was only manifest to her when the sparks left her. Her health had never been good, though she had seldom been confined to her bed. She had suffered much from unseated neuralgia in various parts of her system, for some months previous to her electrical development. Her health is now better than for many years. Dr. H. thinks this phenomenon was not caused by the aurora alluded to, but that it was an appendage of the animal system.

THE PRINCIPLE OF LIFE.—“In passing from the inorganic to the organic world man can trace the principle of life, from its first appearance in the moss, fern and mushroom, when it scarcely can be distinguished from its kindred principle, that works in the crystal, disposing its particles in regular and definite forms—to trace it through its millions of evolutions—now portraying itself on the painted petals of the rose and the lily—now, imaging itself in the lofty figure and wide-spread foliage of the branching oak—now almost losing itself again, in the sponge and the polypus, as it passes from the vegetable to the animal world; thence, as it creeps, swims, flies, walks, in all, through more than two hundred thousand species of organized beings, whose structures, functions and instincts he has described—until he arrives at himself, and recognises in his own person the head of creation—the climax of infinite wisdom; through all the changes of form, until he stops at his own, the most perfect; through all the varieties of structure, until he discovers his own, the most complex, and yet complete; through all the modifications of motion, until he reaches his own, the most diversified and free; through all the manifestations of instinct, until he recognises his own intelligence, supreme and wonder-working.”—[Dr. Haskell.]

CIGAR SMOKING—A nauseous roll of pollution, with fire and smoke working at one end, and a sucking calf at the other.

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, MARCH 15, 1838.

The article on page 137, (in the last number,) should have been headed "Pencilings from Denman's Midwifery," etc. Some other errors may have occurred during our absence; but we notice none of importance.—EDITOR.

SCIENCE!

We find the following recorded among the deaths in the Boston Courier of the 23d ult.; and as it appears without comment, we take it for granted that they were *despatched secundum artem*, or in other words, that they were not killed by a Thomsonian.

DIED—"In Montgomery, Mass.—

Nov. 2d, Mr. Spencer Kellogg, aged 28!

Nov. 30th, Miss Emily Kellogg, aged 22!!

Dec. 5th, Alvah Kellogg, aged 15!!!

Dec. 14th, Miss Mary Ann Kellogg, aged 24!!!!

Jan. 17th, Mr. Whiting Kellogg, aged 80!!!!!!

Jan. 20th, Mrs. Betsey Kellogg, aged 53!!!!!!

"The father of the family IS SUPPOSED to have died in a fit, and the mother and children of typhus fever."

O! boasted science! Had these deaths occurred under Thomsonian treatment, a dozen practitioners would not have sufficed to glut the spleen and vengeance of the scientific slayers, nor to have appeased the anger of an enraged community. But all we now hear on the subject from a duped and blinded community, is, "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away."

MORE SCIENCE!—We will relate a case of "scientific" practice in this city, which has lately come to our knowledge, and through an unquestionable source. A Mr. C. aged upwards of 60 years, married a maiden lady of about 31 or 32 years, some twelve or eighteen months since. A few weeks since, the lady of Mr. C. had called in the nurse and made other preparations for her approaching *accouchement*. On a Sunday afternoon, the nurse proposed sending for the M. D. which was acceded to by Mr. C. He arrived between 6 and 7, and commenced operations. The affair not progressing so fast as he wished, in a short time he applied the *torturing irons*; and although assisted by a brother quack M. D. they did not affect the delivery before 6 o'clock, A. M., Tuesday morning—*thirty-six hours* from the commencement! They used force enough to remove the bed several inches with three or four persons on the bed besides the patient! As might have been expected, the child was *scalped*, the *skull fractured*, and the child's brains scattered about! After delivery in this

state, these scientific quacks stated that the child had been dead *two days*; contrary to the statement of the mother, who, in this case, must be allowed to be as good a judge as the quacks, and contrary to other testimony which can be produced, among which is the fact that the child had a regular evacuation ten minutes after birth. But this scene of heart-rending misery does not end here. Nine days after the birth of the child, the poor mother sunk and died; her end hastened, no doubt, by the maltreatment and "science" of these regular quacks!

We have thus, in a brief manner, given an outline of this one case, and that similar ones occur frequently under "scientific" treatment, there can be no question, for the purpose of asking a few questions. 1st. Was this woman and child murdered? 2d. And if so, by whom? 3d. Would a case of this kind, under Thomsonian treatment, (which, by the way, is an impossibility) be suffered to die with its victims? 4. Can any one show a patient who has ever tried the Thomsonian treatment in parturition who has ever after tried the "scientific" practice? That is, after having tried the "scientific" once? Hear what Dr. Robinson, a reformed regular says:—

"Even in child-bed delivery, a matter never to be forgotten, the Thomsonian practice has very nearly removed the pain and punishment from the daughters of Eve, threatened to our first progenitor and entailed upon her offspring. A lady of great good sense, and without the least coloring of imagination, said it was easier to have five children under the operation and influence of this new practice, than one, by the other management and medicine; and she had had experience in both cases, and has been supported in the evidence by every one who has followed her example."

With what ease would a Thomsonian have treated this, or a similar case. It is a well known fact, that when a female does not become pregnant until advanced in years, it causes more difficulty. The reason is obvious. But Dr. Thomson's general treatment being alike in all cases, this main difficulty is obviated. Only to relax the muscles according to Dr. Thomson's plan, and the case is the same as any other, and proceeds without difficulty, with the balance of the Thomsonian treatment. We advise all, therefore, who wish to get rid of so much suffering, and frequently death, to try the Thomsonian remedies; and if they are not satisfied, they can return to the old system. Dr. Thomson himself has attended midwifery cases for over FORTY YEARS, and has never yet lost mother or child. Where is the regular that can say as much?

SCIENTIFIC MURDER.—Dr. M. Griffith, of Augusta, Ga. in a communication published in the Medical Reformer, Feb. 1. 1838, says, "Not long since, five females died in one week in this place, in child-bed. What a pity some Thomsonian had not passed the houses of these unfortunate females, that their deaths might have been attributed to ignorance. No inquest was held over these unfortunate victims—no indictment for murder—none of the prints of the day were found announcing their deaths with a paragraph of censure on the attending quack. They had taken no *Lobelia*—they died *secundum artem*."

MEDICAL MODESTY.—"We view infidelity in the regular bred and scientific physician, as pernicious to health, as is the lack of faith to morals." The above blasphemous, but silly idea, is the product of the profound brain of *Joseph Comstock, M.D.*, of Lebanon, Connecticut. It appears in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal*, in an article "On Empiricism, and a case of Hydrothorax, with ossification of the aorta," vol. 18, p. 11. A portion of the article is made up of slanderous and malicious animadversions upon the patient and his family, because they were "infidels as to regular-bred physicians." But the case which he details, by no means justifies his sagacious observations; for he himself declares the disease to have been at best incurable—and of course it was of but little moment whether the patient employed a "regular-bred" physician or none at all; especially when the chances were greater of injury than benefit. In this case, however, the gall of Mr. or Dr. Comstock is excited, not because a "regular-bred" was not employed, but because in purchasing his advice they exercised their own judgement as to the propriety of following it, and knew enough to reject his blisters and poisons, to an extent rather griping to his doctorship, but unhappily not sufficient for the accomplishment of any useful purpose—as might have been the event had their "infidelity" in the "regular-bred" nonsense led them to a knowledge of Thomsonism. This cry of "infidelity," against those who dare to doubt the infallibility of the "Doctor," or demur against prostrating their minds and bodies before him, is not entirely new with Dr. Comstock, for even so distinguished a man as Dr. Good is guilty of similar folly, and it has ever been the cry of despairing conservatism against the spirit of improvement in all cases. The Connecticut doctor, however, is somewhat original in his manner of promulgating the idea,—claiming for medical dogmas founded on no fixed principles whatever, veneration equal to that demanded for the oracles of God! Verily, if Dr. Comstock is not demented, he must certainly be in some condition more lamentable, though a person of so much apparent audacity, will probably never suffer through a lack of bread-and-butter!

As for the "regular-bred science" of *Joseph Comstock, M.D.*, we should like to exhibit a full-length portrait of it by copying his article entire; but as we cannot well do that, we beg the reader to rest satisfied with the specimens of it exemplified in a few extracts from his article.

"Mr. H., for more than two years, had been subject to falling suddenly down, in apparent syncope, or asphyxia—[p. 11.] Although the diagnosis in this case was not very clear, I was satisfied that Mr. H. had water in his chest; and yet he had no difficulty of breathing, except in those fits of syncope, which were not frequent, but at very distant intervals—[p. 12.] I may here remark that, after he put himself under my care, he never had any of his fits of falling down in asphyxia. This I attributed, whether correctly or not, to a preparation of Peruvian balsam, ether, vitriol, and oil of the root of sassafras; a preparation which, with us, has had an admirable effect in palpitation of the heart and other affections of that organ."—[p. 13.]

Now let us skip two pages of remarks, and copy further speculations on the fainting fits, viz.

"It is a question not very easy to solve, why the paroxysms of ashyxia should not have increased with the increase of disease in the thorax. This was not the case; nothing of the kind had occurred for more than two months preceding his death. These ill turns, of which I do not think he had more than four or five in the whole, and they were short, constituted the amount of his bodily suffering. We incline, on the whole, to refer this asphyxia to the state of the heart, whilst it was *enlarging*, and the valves while ossifying. Habit, which does such wonders, accommodated the system to the enlarged viscus; and the irregular action of the systole became more regular, but never was quite restored, as the pulse was always smaller in the right than in the left radial artery. If this does not satisfy the reader, he must form a better theory himself, by referring to the aorta, to the water in the chest, to the state of the lungs, or to all these phenomena."—p. 15.

Very satisfactory—very "regular-bred," certainly. The doctor seems to have entirely forgotten in the latter extract, that he had previously *cured* the asphyxia with balsam of Peru, etc. How exalted an opinion must he have of his "admirable" remedy, so soon to forget its services! and how dubious, in reality, his view of the whole case, while he thus unwittingly ascribes the effect to opposite causes. But this is "regular bred science"—an unbelief in the infallibility of which is considered by Mr. Comstock to be "as pernicious to health, as is the lack of faith to morals,"—and is deserving in his opinion, we presume, of the pains and penalties of witchcraft! Happily for true knowledge and science, the public are at this day too enlightened to be much moved by such impudent folly.

On the day of the patient's death, Dr. C. says—"The sweating was astonishingly profuse. It had not only entirely wet the patient's dress, but the bed clothes, for nearly half a yard on each side of him, were drenched. He had vomited several times, an occurrence which had never before taken place during his illness."—p. 13. Dr. C. again refers to this in his closing paragraph, in the following really sensible manner:

"The crisis of his disease was death. Still it may not be unimportant to observe, that nature made an attempt of a salutary kind. This I infer from the profuse sweat, which was an attempt to rid the system of the flood of waters in the thorax. But in this sudoresis nature failed. The *vis medicatrix* was overpowered. But we may be taught the propriety of using sudorifics in hydrothorax."

In other words the "regular-breds" may be taught to pursue the Thomsonian treatment for dropsy in the chest, which nature points out as the only certain mode, and which Dr. C. thus acknowledges. It would greatly redound to the credit of the faculty however, if they could be taught this truth in some other way than by cutting up the *dead* patient—as was the fact in this case,—for it is small matter of "satisfaction" to the friends of the deceased to learn how he *might* have been helped, had his physician known enough; and his confessed ignorance, we fear, will not tend to eradicate that "infidelity in the regular-bred and scientific physician," which undoubtedly in the end will put them upon a regimen somewhat "antiphlogistic"!

PENCILLINGS FROM DENMAN'S MIDWIFERY,

WITH OCCASIONAL REMARKS.....CONCLUDED.

DOGMAS VS. EXPERIENCE.—“In the *practice* of every art, some advantages must remain beyond the power of any doctrine to teach or describe, all rules applying to general, and practice to particular cases. These advantages can only be obtained by the cultivation of our own minds, by experience, and by the acquisition of that dexterity, which frequent exercise must give to our hands.”—p. 442.

Observations which every person of intelligence will admit the correctness of, in despite of all the cavilling of false pretenders to science.

“WANT OF IRRITABILITY IN THE CONSTITUTION. Under many circumstances which occur in the practice of medicine, as in some kinds of fevers, it has been observed, that when a cause of pain exists, it is found to produce an effect quite contrary to what might have been expected: that is, instead of exciting the powers of any one part, or of the whole frame, to action, it oppresseth all the powers of the constitution, and creates a partial or universal insensibility, or a disproportionate action.”—page 330.

Wonder if the sapient ridiculers of the Thomsonian “*abracadabra*,” would admit the propriety of a uniform method of treating the *cause*, which is productive of these varied effects, or whether they would inculcate a different mode of treating the several manifestations? Most probably the latter, judging from their general practice—for they almost invariably doctor the *manifestations* of disease, instead of disease itself; and in this is comprehended “scientific” practice.

SUPERIORITY OF IMPUDENCE OVER MODESTY.—“In consultations on cases, I have generally observed, that the person who advanced his opinion in the most confident manner, prevailed on the rest to acquiesce in his sentiments.”—p. 517.

An observation, the full force and effect of which upon the ignorant and vulgar, is well understood by the faculty, in ordinary practice, as well as in consultations. *Mystic pomposity* and *unblushing impudence* have long been the chief supports of the medical “*profession*.”

HAIR POWDER.—“I recollect two instances of women who had convulsions at the time of labor, preceded by violent headaches, brought on, as it appeared, by the use of some *mercurial* preparation mixed with the powder for the hair.”—p. 521.

If a thousandth part of the admissions of Thomsonians against Lobelia, could be exhibited by the Regulars, which we have exhibited of theirs against their *Samson*, nothing but *law-legs* and acts of incorporation could rescue it from the universal execration which it would in such a case most certainly deserve.

BLEEDING FROM THE JUGULAR VEIN AND TEMPORAL ARTERY.—(On the means of preventing puerperal convulsions.)—“Bleeding is *universally* recommended in *all* cases, when convulsions exist, or are to be apprehended. And in some very urgent cases of this kind, *beside* the blood which may have been thought necessary to take from the arm, it will also be found necessary or preferable, to use local bleedings, by scarification and cupping at the nape of the neck, or by opening the *jugular vein*, or sometimes

by cutting the *temporal artery*; a thing so easily done as not to deter us from the practice.”—p. 523.

This is certainly a very desirable and pleasant remedy for that almost “incurable disease,” which may be induced by a mixture of their *Samson* with hair powder! By the way, do not these terrific convulsions frequently owe their existence to the *internal* “exhibition” of mercury? At any rate, whether yea or nay, these fellows talk as coolly of *cutting the throat* of a female in the most critical of conditions, as they would discuss their oysters and champagne! But let us hear the Doctor’s own confession of the utter inutility of this notable remedy, as well as of all others known to “scientific” practitioners. He remarks, (p. 527-8)—“When *all the means* which reason can suggest, or which experience has proved, have been tried to their full extent without success, the convulsions *may remain*, with evident and extreme danger of the patient dying every time they return; and *having taken away as much blood as we can* VENTURE to do, we shall be *driven by necessity to wait quietly* for the termination of the labor in a *natural way*—HOPING SHE MAY STRUGGLE THROUGH”!! This! this is the grand result of what its professors call SCIENCE! How *consolatory* it is that we can so confidently trust our dearest relations to their infallible hands!

NOSE TICKLING.—“On every principle of removing the cause of convulsions, of substituting new modes of irritation different from that which produced the convulsions, of preventing their ill consequences, or of abating that exquisite irritability which renders patients subject to them, almost every measure and method has at one time or other been tried. Harvey recommended the irritation of the nose in a comatose patient who was in labor, and gives an instance of its success.”—p. 527.

It probably was in this case, as in thousands of other instances under the treatment of the “*Guessers*,” that the patient recovered, not in consequence of having her nose irritated,—or by the exhibition of deadly poisons,—but *in spite* of those remedies. But if a thousand patients should have convulsions, and each patient’s nose should be irritated, and, notwithstanding the irritation, nine hundred and ninety-nine of them should *die*,—no doubt nine tenths of the *faculty*, and perhaps a majority of the people, not exercising their own judgement, would conclude that the *one* patient recovered, not because her constitution was able to throw off the disease, but only in consequence of having her *nose tickled*!

GRAND CONCLUSION—QUICKSILVER AND QUACKERY—SCIENTIFIC EMPIRICISM.—“Among many other medicines, which have been recommended in the advanced stages of this disorder, (Mania,) it would have been *extraordinary* if some of the preparations of *quicksilver* had not been tried; and of these calomel has had the preference. It was the favorite medicine in maniacal cases, as long as I remember any thing of the profession. By some, all preparations of quicksilver have been thought to *increase*, and by others to *lessen* irritability,—but the explanation of the operations of medicines has very little forwarded the improvement of the art; and I am not clear, whether the practice of medicine may not, even at this time, be justly considered as EMPIRICAL—the excellence of the art chiefly depending on the sa-

gacity and judgement of each person who practises it, and NOT ON ANY FIXED OR UNQUESTIONABLE PRINCIPLES."!!!—p. 596.

This, after a forty years' practice, is the conclusion to which the celebrated Denman arrives, relative to the *science* of medicine. It is similar to that of all others who no longer have a *living* to obtain by poisoning their fellow creatures. And it is a sufficient answer to the false pretensions of those who are now spoken of as "*the faculty*," and who parade at the corners of the streets their uncurbed arrogance and folly as the very sublimation of skill and wisdom. In fact and in truth, (and we say this without the slightest feeling of malice,) the medical profession as a class, are decidedly, so far as all really useful knowledge is considered, the most ignorant of the whole community—as those of them who are really wise are well aware, and frequently confess and lament.

ANOTHER LABORER IN THE FIELD.—We have received "*The Botanic Beacon and Medical Reformer*, Vol. I. No. 1," published at Tuscaloosa, Ala., by Dr. A. J. Holcombe. It is to be issued every six weeks, or eight numbers per annum, each number to contain eight pages, at one dollar in advance. It has a neat appearance, and we hope the Editor will soon be able to eularge and compete with his contemporaries. In his address to the public, the Editor says—

"On presenting the first number of our little journal, for the inspection of the various classes of the community, we are not insensible of the attitude we assume; we are prepared for, and expect the shafts of malice, and the scowls of contempt. But we also expect to meet the smiles of approbation, from many who stand high, for their moral rectitude and mental cultivation. The latter we expect, because we intend to merit it; the former we shall disregard.

"We shall endeavor to make the paper useful, rather than amusing to our readers; and we hope that many who, like the mariner with the compass, have been driven and tossed by the storms of affliction, upon the ocean of false science, until they are ready to sink into the awful deep of death, may yet see the light reflected from this little Beacon, and be guided to a haven of safety.

"We know that in the prosecution of our design, we shall come in contact with the heterogenous theories and practices of the Old-School. But we shall endeavor, with true honesty of heart, to do them *justice*, so far as we may be able. We have cause to lament the fact, that so honorable a class of the community as the medical fraternity generally are—for many of whom we have an affectionate regard, as personal friends—should cleave, with unyielding tenacity, to errors which daily jeopardize, and often destroy the lives of their fellow-beings.

"We regret, too, that many who have purchased the Botanic works, and profess to advocate this system of medical practice, are doing the system more injury than all its avowed enemies. Many of them offer their services as practitioners, without a supply of necessary medicines, or a knowledge of their properties. Others, like Lot's wife, look back, and

are changed—not to a pillar of salt—but to mercurial dupes. For such we have no use. Let them reap, in their own bodies, the reward of their folly. We have, however, never known one, who had fairly tested it, and understood it, to abandon it. These remarks may seem hard; but we are resolved to pursue truth, so far as we may be able to understand it, without caring where it may lead.

"Should any of the advocates of the mineral practice wish to write in support of it, we invite them to our columns, provided their articles shall be respectful, and not too lengthy for our sheet. No communication, however, will be entitled to notice, unless the real name of the writer be made known to the editor.

"We have no doubt of the result which will follow a thorough investigation of the subject. It is what we ask; it is what the afflictions of the human family call for. It must, it will take place—the people will investigate.

"Let every one engage in the search after truth, and if the Botanic practice is founded on a true scientific basis, let not unhallowed prejudice reject it. If the people can find it a cure for their diseases, let them have it—they *will* have it.

"The rapidity with which this practice is advancing, and spreading over the earth, speaks much for its efficacy. It is believed about three millions of the people of the United States have embraced it. Many physicians, who had long tried the old practice, and finally proven it uncertain and fallacious, have adopted this, and are using it with success in the relief of suffering humanity."

We copy the following from the Beaver (Pa.) Aurora, to show that the *whole press* of this country is not shackled. They are fast giving way before the light of truth and real science; and it gratifies us to find them beginning to speak out boldly and manfully on the subject of medical practice.

"We have the pleasure of acknowledging Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, of this valuable and interesting periodical, for which the venerable Doctor will have the goodness to accept our thanks. The Manual is beautifully printed on an extra fine super-royal sheet, in octavo form—and edited with great ability. We have no hesitation in saying that the great and humane cause which they advocate will eventually triumph over the bombastic nonsense of our present medical schools. We recommend the Manual to all who wish to become enlightened on a subject which most deeply interests themselves. Persons wishing to examine the work, can have an opportunity by calling at this office. The work is published unusually low.

HABIT.—Few have sufficient respect for habit, the ease with which it may be formed—the difficulty with which it can be broken—the magical power with which it smooths the rough path of duty, and enables us to look with indifference upon the allurements of the world. It is a kind of shield, which the fingers of a boy may, at first, weave of threads light as gossamer, and which yet grows into the strength of steel. A correct habit of living is principle, without which no one can be happy.

MR. JOHN A. BROWN.

We have read a communication sent to us by this personage, dated February 10. We have also the second number, (vol. 3,) of the *Botanic Advertiser*, containing an article in relation to the matters discussed in the said communication, and purporting to be written by Mr. B. As the published article relates to the same subject as the other, it has superior claims upon our attention.

Mr. Brown commences by stating, that—

“For a number of years past, considerable difficulties have existed between Doct. Thomson and a large number of practitioners who follow his principles; and among whom, we have had either the ill, or good fortune, to be numbered, as a prominent member.”

Mr. Brown commits a very important error when he states difficulties to have existed between Doct. Thomson and those practitioners who “follow his principles.” A single word however, will rectify the error. The difficulties have existed between the Doctor and those practitioners who have NOT “followed his principles,”—as we mean to show to the public in the most unequivocal manner. Mr. B. is doubtful whether the predicament in which he is placed be ill or good fortune,—from an honorable man such a “doubt” might excite some surprise,—not so, however, when expressed by men whose conduct has brought upon them the opprobrious epithet of “speculating adventurers.”

Mr. Brown continues—

“These difficulties had their origin in what we thought and still think, the exorbitant demands of Dr. Thomson. But, at the recent Thomsonian Convention in this city, [Providence,] the existing difficulties were taken into consideration, and, after having been fully detailed and discussed, were, as we thought, finally and amicably adjusted, and all cause of complaint removed, on both sides.”

If the demands of Dr. T. are really so exorbitant as certain persons affirm, why, for conscience’ sake did those persons ever submit to become his agents? It appears to us their conduct gives the lie to their assertions.—We too, thought the “existing difficulties” had been adjusted by the Providence Convention: and it is not our fault nor that of Dr. Thomson that new difficulties have arisen, or old ones revived.

“So far as we were personally concerned, [says Mr. Brown,] the facts were as follows.—After the rules and regulations had been adopted, for the future action and government of the Thomsonian fraternity, we [Brown] made a motion that such parts of Dr. Thomson’s communication as referred personally to us, should be referred to a committee, which was agreed to. The committee reported, that all that part of the address which referred to our Infirmary, in Boston, should be stricken out, AS BEING INCORRECT, and that Dr. Thomson should give to us, (Dr. J. A. Brown) an agency for the city of Providence, to the exclusion of one which Dr. Thomson had already established here; and that on such conditions, the sale of our “Guide to Health” should be suppressed.”

We must be permitted to correct another very important misstatement of Mr. B. The committee did not advise the striking out of Dr. T.’s address that part which related to Brown’s conduct in Boston “as being incorrect,”—for that question was not tried at all. The report of the committee on this point, was in the following words:

“The committee respectfully request the members of the “convention to strike from Dr. Thomson’s address the

“passage in relation to Dr. Brown’s Infirmary in Boston.”—See report of com., p. 37, Manual vol. iii.

This by no means justifies the assertion made by Mr. Brown, and was advised under the expectation that he would honorably comply with the award of the committee—which he has not done, and in our opinion, never intended to do.

Mr. B. goes on as follows:

“All these propositions were unanimously adopted, Dr. Thomson and his General Agent, being present; and we supposed, as did a majority of the members at least, that all difficulties were at an end. Judge then, of our surprise, when, having complied with the stipulations on our part in good faith, on application for an agency, we were informed that the rules established by the convention were set aside, and that, before an agency would be granted, a bond must be signed, which contains the following conditions.

“The said (agent) has agreed that he will not mix or compound any of said medicine, or buy or speculate on any of said medicine or the ingredients whereof the same are compounded, nor purchase any of said medicine of any person or persons except said Thomson or his legally authorized agent, except in case of urgent necessity,” &c. &c.

“The above is, in every sense of the word, directly opposite to the doings of the convention—a convention called by Dr. Thomson himself, at which he and his friends were present; and this is the reason why we have again advertised our “GUIDE TO HEALTH” for sale;—and we are happy to say that they are selling rapidly, and believe that they will greatly aid the cause of medical reform.” (!!!!)

We have thus copied the whole of the article in the *Advertiser*, except five introductory lines of no importance. In the last extract, Mr. Brown pretends that he was “informed, on application for an agency, that the rules established by the convention were set aside.” If he means to say that he was told so by Dr. Thomson or either of his General Agents, or any other person engaged with him, he says that which is entirely false, and has not even the shadow of truth for its support. He pretends also, that he was “surprised” when on application for an agency, he was required to sign the “bond” (that he would deal honestly with his employer, and refrain from “drugging” the public with such botanical remedies as “frog salve,” and so forth). And he concludes that this requisition, as well as the stipulations of the bond itself, were “directly opposite to the doings of the convention,” and justified renewed acts of turpitude in himself. The report of the committee we think will afford the best answer to these two points,—on which points, no doubt, Mr. Brown chiefly relies to save himself from inevitable infamy. It reads thus:

“The Committee appointed to make an investigation of the difficulties existing between Dr. S. Thomson and J. A. Brown, beg leave to make the following report: They have attentively heard the statements of the respective parties with regard to their grievances; and after giving them mature consideration, have made the following decisions.

“1. That Dr. Brown shall entirely suppress his publication entitled ‘The Family Guide to Health,’ &c.

“2. That Dr. Thomson withdraw his agency from this place, and confer an agency on Dr. Brown, SUCH AS IS CONFERRED UPON AGENTS GENERALLY.

“3. That Dr. Brown SHALL SUBMIT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS WHICH GOVERN DR. THOMSON’S AGENCIES.”

“Report unanimously accepted.”—See Manual, as above.

These are the “rules established by the Convention,” which Mr. Brown affirms were set aside and violated by his being required to sign a bond, such as is signed by every agent of Dr. Thomson! The merits or demerits of the bond are of no account here; and if it were usual for the agents of Dr. Thomson to sign forty bonds, instead of one, the rules of the Convention, and his own plighted word

and honor to that Convention, imperatively made it obligatory upon Mr. Brown so to do,—or to show the *best* of reasons when refusing. With the report before him in black and white, as we have just placed it, it would become an insult to any man of ordinary capacity, if we attempted to show that the Convention did not intend to claim for Brown any privileges superior to those of agents in general; on the contrary, the stipulations of the decision are so plain and explicit, while in two separate articles he is bound to “submit to the rules and regulations which govern agents generally,” that it could not have been made more unequivocal even had the signing of the bond been expressly required.

We have thus shown, by facts incontrovertible, that Mr. Brown’s assertions rest upon no firm basis; and it is a matter of unconcern to us who passes judgement upon the case, whether friend or foe, if he possesses one single spark of honor.

That the matter may be perfectly well understood by the reader, and that we may introduce further circumstances clearly indicating the extent of Mr. Brown’s “*thorough-going Thomsonism*,” we will, in the fewest words possible, review the whole case, so far as we are certain of the facts. Of the difficulties previous to the Convention we never sought a knowledge, and have nothing to do with them here. But that these and all other difficulties might be honorably adjusted, a Convention was called, and was held at Providence, Nov. 13, 1837. The affairs of Mr. Brown were referred to a committee in the election of whom he had as much of a voice as any other person. Both parties, Brown and Dr. Thomson, appeared before the committee. Mr. Brown was desirous to have the aid of *counsel*; but Dr. Thomson, having stated his complaints, and agreed to a proposition to abide by the judgement of the committee, Mr. Brown, after some hours’ discussion, acceded to that arrangement. After a full hearing, the committee made the decision which we have already copied, and which we think was altogether too favorable to Brown—his conduct since, proving that he ought to have been expelled from the Thomsonian ranks. The object of the committee, however, was to establish harmony, and Dr. Thomson immediately withdrew his agency at Providence accordingly, and held himself in readiness to confer an agency on Brown, so soon as he had complied with the requirements imposed by the convention. Mr. Brown (to use his own phrase) “*forgot*” to stop the advertisement of his book in the ‘Morning Post,’ and *omitted* to discontinue a certain advertisement of a mongrel book, (to say nothing of medicine,) in the ‘R. I. Botanic Advertiser,’ of November and December, 1837, the former of which contained a part of the convention proceedings. These were then considered, however, as unimportant items resulting from carelessness, which would soon be honestly rectified. Under date of “Providence, Dec. 1st, 1837,” (*postmarked Dec. 3*.) Brown addressed a letter to Samuel Smith, Esq., (senior general agent of Dr. T.) stating that his “agency would be acceptable by mail as soon as convenient—also one for Dr. Farwell,” &c. &c. Being directed particularly to “Samuel Smith, Esq.” in his *unofficial* capacity, and Mr. Smith being absent from the city, the letter remained unanswered till after the reception of another letter from Brown, dated “Dec. 9,”

requesting an answer to the one previously sent. Mr. Smith, immediately on his return, December 11, answered the letters, stating to Mr. Brown that he was aware that Dr. Thomson’s agents were required to sign a bond, &c., and that if himself and his friend were ready to comply with the ordinary terms of agencies, by signifying the same to Mr. J. W. Chapman, (junior general agent,) the latter gentleman would forward by mail certificates of agency together with the blank bonds, which latter, after having been signed by Mr. B. and his friend, could be returned by them. To this, Mr. Brown made no reply whatever,—and we have no information as to his sentiments, except what may be inferred from the article in the Advertiser of February, which we have already noticed.

Mr. Brown pretends that he has “*RELIGIOUSLY*” fulfilled what justice and honor demanded of him. An instance of this “*RELIGIOUS*” fulfillment, may be found in the fact, notwithstanding his “*thorough-going Thomsonism*,” that, the *very next day after* he had mailed his first letter to Mr. Smith, and of course before he could know whether he would be required to sign a bond or not, he *opened a negotiation with an individual in Boston for a supply of mongrel books!* To prove this, we have a letter written by Brown’s *own hand*, dated “Dec. 3d, 1837,” and *postmarked* “Dec. 4.”!

We have thus endeavored, as our duty to the Providence Convention, to the Thomsonian community, and to the public at large required, to state truly the course pursued by Mr. Brown since the convention. For the statements we have made we can produce proof undeniable, if we have not already done so,—or will acknowledge the incorrectness of any point misrepresented.

EXTRAORDINARY SURGICAL CASE.—In a late number of the Lancet, Dr. Burnes, of the Royal Navy, has placed upon record a case, which equals in interest the celebrated Copenhagen needle case, which attracted the attention of the scientific world a few years since. Robert Sims, aged 23, of her Majesty’s ship Belvidera, was placed on the sick list in the month of June, 1831, with a bile on his back rather below the shoulder. This was opened and a black shining substance discovered at the bottom of the wound. The opening was made larger, and it was found to be a piece of steel, about the size of a ramrod, too firmly bedded to be easily removed. The usual treatment was pursued until early in August, when a free incision was made, and to the surprise of all present, a two pronged kitchen fork, broken short at the handle, and minus the lower part of one of the prongs, was extracted. The man declared himself to be totally unable to account for its presence, and there was only a very slight mark on his back, rather resembling a vaccination spot than the scar of a wound. In the course of last November, he again came under Dr. Burnes’s notice, when the remaining portion of the prong was found on the left side of his neck, having worked itself a passage from the right side of the back.—It was easily removed and the man soon recovered.

The import of ardent spirits to this country has diminished about two-thirds in seven years.

"**DR. BOTANICO-MEDICO.**"—The following statement in relation to what Dr. Curtis called our "*falsehood*," respecting the practice of students "*prepared*" by him, would have been published before this but for our absence. If this be not sufficient to substantiate the correctness of our statement, we will obtain an affidavit from the patient himself.

CERTIFICATE OF DR. WILLIAM JOHNSON.

Agreeable to request, I here state the case of Mr. JOHN CHAMBERLAIN, of Southboro', Mass., who was attended by *Henry Johnson*, a student of Dr. Curtis's College, Ohio, (who said he was going between the Thomsonian and the Regular system,)—the patient not being cured, or in the least benefited, but rather injured, by his practice,—but subsequently cured at 554 Washington-street, Boston, by a strict adherence to Doct. Thomson's rules as laid down in his Guide to Health.

Mr. Chamberlain was taken with lung fever 19th November; took cold on Friday before, and on Tuesday a Mrs. Collins, who has a family right, gave him a course of medicine; sweat in bed, and had a very good effect. On Wednesday, Mrs. Collins was called away, consequently Henry Johnson was sent for. He pronounced the disease bilious fever, and ordered him not to be sweated, but gave *pills, drops*, and other things unlike Thomsonian medicines, until Monday, 27th. Humor all in, and grew no better, but rather worse. On Monday night, Dr. N. S. Magoon was sent for from Boston. He went, and found the patient had much fever, low quick pulse, respiration very hard, &c. A course of Thomsonian medicines was given him on Tuesday by Dr. Magoon, who on Wednesday brought him to my Infirmary, 554 Washington-street, Boston, where I gave him three courses of the medicine, which completely cured him.

The above can be proved by legal evidence. For further statements apply to the patient, Mr. Chamberlain—who will testify to the same.

WILLIAM JOHNSON, Agt. of the Infirmary.

PROPRIETORSHIP OF THE 'THOMSONIAN RECORDER.'

It will be recollected, that in consequence of the course pursued by Dr. Curtis, editor of what was the 'Thomsonian,' but now 'Botanico-Medical Recorder,' Dr. Thomson, through the Manual (p. 11) demanded of him, information as to the manner of his coming into the possession of the paper, and by what right he conducted as he did in relation to it, without the consent of Dr. T. who is owner of one half of the same. Curtis denied that Dr. T. had any claim upon the paper, which statement he repeats in the last Recorder, Feb. 24. Soon after the first of these denials, Dr. Thomson through the Manual asked information from two of the individuals who were formerly partners in the concern, as to the facts, and immediately received the following reply. We have deferred publishing it before now for good reasons, but give it here, that our friends may be aware of the motives which influence Curtis to slander and traduce that man, by the merits of whose doctrines he has acquired notoriety and the means of subsistence.

Columbus, (Ohio,) January 6, 1838.

TO DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Sir—In accordance with your wish as expressed in the "Manual," Vol. iii. No. 5, page 79, I will endeavor to "state precisely in what manner the Thomsonian Recorder was got up," &c.

"The Thomsonian Recorder" was gotten up by the firm of "PIKE, PLATT & Co." The individuals composing that firm were, Doct. *Samuel Thomson*, of Boston, Massachusetts, *Rufus Ferriss*, of Medina, *Jarvis Pike*, *Thomas Johnson*, and *Hiram Platt*, of Columbus, Ohio. One half the interest of the firm was yours, [Dr. Thom-

son's,] the other half was owned by the other four individuals. The expenses of the Recorder were defrayed *by the Company*. It was done by and with your special advice and direction. I think the idea of the company undertaking the publication of such a periodical, was first suggested by myself. Be that as it may, I am certain that you approved of the plan from the first, and that the other members, excepting myself, objected to the undertaking on account of the expense, until, during one of your subsequent visits, you urged the propriety of the undertaking in decided terms. It was then commenced, and the expenses defrayed out of the company fund.

Thus, sir, I believe I have given direct answers to your *direct* questions. Did I know the motive which occasioned this call, I might perhaps have given some "other particulars necessary to a correct understanding of the case." What I *have* stated, however, I think I have the best reasons for knowing to be true.

Respectfully,

HIRAM PLATT.

CURTIS AND CAYENNE.—Nothing could more clearly show the miserable shifts to which we have brought Dr. Curtis, than his repetition of what he has once himself confessed to be an incorrect statement. We allude to the false assertion in the Recorder of Feb. 24, that we "called cayenne and golden seal *physic*," &c. When he first attempted to delude his readers with this idea, he confessed we said no such thing; but if he had not thus confessed his disingenuousness, he could humbug no Thomsonian, whose good opinion is worth having, with a statement so untrue. The doctor of course has a right to choose the weapons he will employ; but he has here fair warning, that *for every falsehood which he may state about us, we will tell two truths about him.*

QUEER LAW.—Among the Athenians and ancient Romans there was a law exacting an account from every man how he maintained himself and family; and if unable to give a satisfactory answer, he was immediately banished with reproach, as a vermin that devoured what he had no right to, in being an unprofitable excrescence, contributing nothing toward the good of the public. For conscience's sake, what would become of our 'scientific,' 'professional,' mineral gentlemen—'who *make* the disease they prey upon,' did such a law exist with us? If not "banished," we fear their necks would be troubled with an epidemic, which would be beyond the reach of even steam or lobelia!

We learn from the Botanic Sentinel that Mr. Mattson has retired from the editorial department of that paper. Although his place appears to be well supplied, we regret even the temporary loss of talents and acquirements like those of Mr. M., which we feel sure however, will be only temporary.

The editor of the Wooster (O.) Advocate has a long rignarole on what he calls "Another victim to Thomsonian ignorance,"—but as said editor is such an irreclaimable dolt on this, and every other subject, we do not feel it incumbent on us to further notice him.

"While pursuing the old study, I was never satisfied; but after an impartial investigation of Dr. Thomson's System, I became its firm, bold and undaunted friend; from the fact, the remedies prescribed being safe, powerful, speedy, and efficacious."—*W. K. Griffin, M. D.*

CORRESPONDENCE.

Richmond, (Va.) March 2, 1838.

To DR. SAMUEL THOMSON:

Sir:—I take the liberty of writing to you to enquire if you know such a person as *Benjamin Thompson*, Thomsonian Doctor, from Concord, Boston, as he has been here some time cutting a great swell, and telling every person that he is the founder of the system, and that he had the largest establishment in Boston; and as I am favorable to the system, I take this liberty of enquiring from you the character of the said B. Thomson, as he has done the cause a great deal of injury in this place, by running down the mineral practice and calling the doctors murderers, liars and thieves. The practice here would become very popular if some person of good character were to establish themselves in this place. You will confer a favor on me if you will write to me and let me know if you know *Benjamin Thompson*.

Sir, yours with respect,

RICHARD PENN SMITH.

The best answer which can be given to the above is the following, from the proceedings of the New England Branch of the U. S. Thomsonian Friendly Botanic Society, convened at Providence, R. I., November 13, 1837, to wit:

“Resolved, That as there is an individual by the name of BENJAMIN THOMPSON, travelling about the country, and representing himself as SAMUEL THOMSON, the founder of the Thomsonian System, that the country be warned against him as an IMPOSTOR, so that they may no longer suffer from his dishonest practices.”

CURIOUS. — The Mercer (Pa.) Luminary says, that considerable excitement prevails in the southwestern part of that county, on account of the development of the following facts in a recent trial before a magistrate:

“Dr. ———, (a physician of some standing, residing in that part of the county alluded to), returned from a trip to the eastward last fall, bringing with him a young student, apparently about 20 years of age, who continued to live with him until within a week or ten days since, when—for reasons best known to themselves,—suspicions were excited in the minds of the citizens that the aforesaid student was a—FEMALE! On the strength of these suspicions, application was made to a Justice for warrants to arrest the Dr. and his student. These were granted, the arrest was made—the suspicion proved true, and both were bound over in the sum of \$500 each, to appear at the March court.”

A curious experimental fact has just been proved at Belgium. A bar of iron heated to a white heat, and exposed rapidly to the action of a strong forge bellows becomes immediately so hot that it melts, and the liquified matter is dispersed in the air, where it sparkles like a wire burnt in oxygen. In this manner, upwards of a pound of metal is dispersed. The same effect will also be produced if the bar when heated to a white heat be attached to a cord, and turned in water. The iron melts in the same manner, and escapes in luminous tangents.

PROPOSALS

For publishing a work entitled
LECTURES ON THE THOMSONIAN SYSTEM OF
MEDICAL PRACTICE,

Delivered in the cities of Philadelphia and Wilmington,
BY DR. WILLIAM HENRY FOSBERD,
Licentiate of the Philadelphia Branch of the Thom. Fr. Bot. Society,
and author of the Institutes of Thomsonism.

This Course comprises the following subjects, viz:

INTRODUCTORY.—Principal events in Dr. Thomson's life—Howard's improvements—Homœopathic system.

LECTURE I.—On the Unity of disease—doctrines proved by principles and facts recognized in medical philosophy.

LECTURE II.—On the nature of disease—obstruction—explained—illustrated.

LECTURE III.—On the Thomsonian course of medicine—administration—principles involved in practice—adaptation to all cases.

LECTURE IV.—On the theory of fever—remedial effort of nature—no increase of heat—no internal determination.

LECTURE V.—On Regular practice in fever—contrary to medical philosophy—to the real nature of fever—to the principles of their own theory—bleeding in cold stage of intermittents.

LECTURE VI.—On Thomsonian practice in fever—emetics—vapor bath—stimulants.

LECTURE VII.—On Regular theory of inflammation—errors in regard to causes—in regard to phenomena.

LECTURE VIII.—On Thomsonian theory of inflammation—remedial nature—habits of body most liable to it—fearful character in debilitated habits—tissues subject to the worst forms—inflammation of serous membranes—identity of fever and inflammation—natural termination—tendency to point outwardly.

LECTURE IX.—On Regular practice in inflammation—effects of bleeding—use of the blood—purgatives—blisters—emetics in nauseating doses—vomiting.

LECTURE X.—On Thomsonian practice in inflammation—stimulants indicated by true pathology—necessary even in acute inflammation—character of stimulants to be employed—adapted to inflammation of serous membranes—effects of the vapor bath on the minute arteries—on the blood—emetics.

These Lectures will be issued in an extra to the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel, in numbers of 36 pages each. It will probably take five numbers to complete the work. Terms for the whole, Fifty Cents, invariably in advance, without which none will be sent. The agents of the Sentinel will please act for the lectures. Communications containing less than five dollars, must be POST PAID to receive attention.

Philadelphia, March 1, 1838.

J. COATES, Jr., Publisher.

NOTICE.

I observe that the names of two or three of my Agents are published as joint editors of a certain paper printed in Providence, R.I., the principles of which are in several important respects unlike my own. As men are sometimes “known by the company they keep,” and as I wish to retain no man as an agent for me, who has become weary of my precepts, I would ask them for an interpretation of conduct so mysterious,—believing that “no man can serve two masters,” and that the public as well as myself are entitled to know the truth.

Boston, March 15, 1838.

SAMUEL THOMSON.

☞ Pure Thomsonian Medicines, prepared by Doctor Samuel Thomson himself, will be kept constantly for sale, at wholesale or retail, by JONAS W. CHAPMAN, (Agent for Dr. Samuel Thomson,) at the New England General Depot, No. 40, Salem-street, Boston. Also—Family Rights and Robinson's Lectures.

The *Vegetable Elixir* of E. Smith or H. Winchester will be sold at half the price of Thomson's No. 6.

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By GEORGE A. CHAPMAN, Printer and Publisher.

DOCT. SAMUEL THOMSON, PROPRIETOR.

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THOMSONIAN MANUAL.

"So be it that Truth is in the field, men do her but injury to doubt her strength."—MILTON.

VOLUME III.]

BOSTON, APRIL 15, 1838.

[NUMBER 12.]

ON FEVER.

[Continued from page 164.]

The celebrated Dr. Brown, of Edinburgh, began and established a doctrine opposed to that of Cullen. He considers man is made of organized materials, endowed with a principle of excitability or predisposition to excitement, by means of a great variety of stimuli; some of which are constantly acting upon the machine. This excitability, in point of fact, is nothing more than the nervous energy of Dr. Cullen; it is the principle of life, or life itself. It is, according to Dr. Brown, constantly varying in its accumulation and exhaustion; yet it differs somewhat from the nervous energy of Dr. Cullen, which is influenced by something unconnected with the matter of organization, and which he terms "*vis medicatrix nature*," whereas Brown's excitability is passively exposed to the effects of such stimuli as it may chance to meet with, yielding to their influence. He divided all diseases into two classes:—the first, caused by accumulated sensibility, and marked by direct debility; to this class he gave the name of *sthenic*;* the second, produced by exhausted excitability, and marked by indirect debility; this he termed *asthenic*.† And his treatment is as simple as the arrangement:—in the first case, to reduce the excitability by antiphlogistic means;‡ and in the second, to increase the excitability by an opposite treatment. Dr. Brown made many converts, but they soon began to fall off; and it is curious, that in proportion as they declined in numbers at home, they increased abroad, and are at this very moment, with some modifications, in considerable force in Italy. Dr. Darwin so far improved the Brunonian doctrines. He made the brain the common fountain from which every other organ is supplied with sensorial fluid, and is itself supplied from the blood, as the blood is from the food of the stomach; so that, according to his notion, it is a mere secretion, and capable of being exhausted in four different ways, through the agency of four separate faculties which he ascribes to it.

First. The faculty of irritability, exhausted by external stimuli affecting simple irritable fibres.

Second. Of sensibility, exhausted by stimuli affecting the fibres of the organs of sense.

Third. Of voluntariness, exhausted by stimuli affecting the fibres of those organs which act in obedience to the will.

Fourth, and lastly. Of associability, exhausted by stimuli affecting organs associated in their actions by sympathy or long habit.

By each of these means Darwin supposes the sensorial power becomes evacuated, as by food and rest it becomes replenished, often indeed with an accumulation or surplus stock of power. He therefore considers the occasional causes of fever (whatever they may be), as inducing a torpor of the extreme arteries; and the subsequent heat, as an inordinate action of the sensorial power hereby accumulated to excess.

* Sthenic—tending to inflammation.

† Asthenic—not tending to inflammation.

‡ Antiphlogistic—opposed to inflammation, reducing.

Dr. Clutterbuck, a physician of great reputation, has most ingeniously attempted to prove, that fever depends upon some degree of inflammation of the brain; and in reviewing the merits of his system, it must be kept in view, that he practises in the greatest commercial city in the universe, [London]—among a people whose minds, generally speaking, are more actively employed than their bodies,—who are exposed to intense anxieties, occasioned by extensive speculations and reverses of fortune,—who are either in a state of considerable excitement or depression: if we add to these considerations the effect of heavy meals and sedentary habits impeding the functions of the stomach and bowels, it will be seen, that he had considerable foundation for the opinions he has been led to advance. But I object to the arbitrary application of his doctrines.

Broussais, to whom the profession also stands greatly indebted, and whose merits, like those of many others, have been more justly estimated abroad than at home, asserts, that all fevers may be referred to *gastro-enteritis*,* simple or complicated; and there can be no doubt as to the correctness of his views. The alimentary canal is the original seat of the disturbance, in a great majority of cases, of fever; and in fact, in cases that run through their progress and terminate fatally, diseased appearances of a very marked kind are commonly found in the stomach and intestines: nor have I yet seen a single case examined after death where such appearances were not exhibited, and alone sufficient to account for the death of the patient. It is easy, therefore, to account for the doctrines of Broussais, and for the tone in which he supports them; and I allow him every merit and commendation which is so justly his due.

It is now necessary to treat of the effect produced by certain circumstances on the human body, as causes of fever: these are marsh miasm, contagion from human effluvia, and epidemic influence. These causes, together with cold, fear, etc., are called in medical language remote; but I shall continue to employ the terms common and specific.

No one who has attended to this subject can deny the influence of contagion and marsh miasm on the human body; but I conceive that too much has been attributed to them, and too little to the state of the constitution previous to seizure, and also by far too little to the common causes of fever. Dr. Gregory used to assert, that contagion might be frozen for any length of time, and resume its virulence upon being thawed. There are other interesting facts which are not sufficiently attended to in considering this subject. It is my belief, that contagion will not produce fever if applied a thousand times to a person, if he is in a good state of body and mind. Dr. Gregory used to state, that he must have been exposed to the influence of contagion some twenty or thirty thousand times without affecting him once. The contagion of fever to produce its effects, must be applied to a person ill fed and clothed, or to one whose stomach and bowels are in very bad order, or

* Inflammation of the stomach and intestines.

who is laboring under the effects of some mental depression.

"A fever, therefore," to adopt the language of Dr. Fordyce, "is a disease that affects the whole system; it affects the head, the trunk of the body, and the extremities; it affects the circulation, the absorption, and the nervous system; it affects the body, and affects likewise the mind. It is, therefore, a *disease of the whole system*, in every kind of sense. It does not, however, affect the various parts of the system uniformly and equally; but, on the contrary, sometimes one part is much affected in proportion to the affection of another part."

The result of the whole, as observed at the outset, is, that we know *little* or *nothing* of the proximate cause of fever, or the means by which its phenomena are immediately produced. In the language of Lieutaud, applied to the subject before us, they are too often "*atra caligine mersæ*;"* nor have any of the systems hitherto invented to explain this recondite enquiry, however ingenious or elaborate, answered the purpose for which they were contrived.

Here close our extracts from Dr. Good.

Dr. Smith, of the London Fever Hospital, in his work on Fever, observes, "All the partial and imperfect views of fever which have now been brought before the eye of the reader, originate in one or other of the following errors, obvious as they are:—Either that of assuming as a fact what is merely a conjecture; or that of assigning to the genus what belongs only to the species; or that of characterizing the disease by what appertains only to a stage; or that of *mistaking the effect for the cause*. One or other of these errors, which are as serious as they are palpable, has vitiated in a greater or less degree every generalization of fever that has hitherto been attempted. Whatever be the phenomena of fever, they depend upon certain states of the organs. Whatever be the noxious agents, or the exciting causes of the disease and however they operate, they can induce the disease only by bringing about a certain condition in a certain number of organs, the individual events constituting the disease being nothing but certain changes in these organs."

REMARKS.

Notwithstanding Dr. Smith seems to be so well aware of the rocks upon which all preceding theories had foundered, he could not himself avoid them. He hardly gives himself time to utter the great truth that all theories or attempts at generalization had failed on account of *mistaking the effect for the cause*, when he himself commits the same error—considers fever as "*disease*,"—and indulges in speculations as vague and hypothetical as any which preceded him. Let us, instead of following him to his unsatisfactory conclusions, glance hastily at the principles of Dr. Samuel Thomson.

Health, says Thomson, consists in a proper balance of the animal temperature—*Heat* being indispensably requisite to the support of life; *cold* the principle or cause of death. Disease is a *unit*: that is, the immediate cause of disease in all cases is *obstruction*. Obstruction may of course be local, or general,—may impede the natural action of a single organ, or of several organs. There being but one immediate general cause of disease, it necessarily follows, that one general mode of treatment will be applicable. Consequently those medicines which

will remove obstructions and restore a healthy action, will be suited to every patient, whatever form may be assumed by the disease, or whatever organs may be affected.

FEVER is not *disease*, but is only the effect of disease, says Thomson. He therefore aims to remove the *cause*, which is *cold*; that accomplished, the effect will cease. Fever is produced by the efforts of nature to expel disease or cold, and is therefore a *friend*.* If then, says he, heat is the support of life, and its extinction death, a diminution of heat will produce disease, or an approximation towards death. Therefore, whenever fever manifests itself, or disease exists, he assists the fever as a friend, and wars against cold, as the enemy. Fever, says the doctor again, is not the effect of an *increase of heat*, but is only the effect of a disturbed condition of the natural heat of the body. In proportion to the degree of fever will be the internal degree of cold, as is manifested by the tongue, which in a severe paroxysm is very cold, and truly indicates the condition of the internal organs. The heat upon the surface is increased in the aggregate; not, however, in consequence of an increase of the general temperature, but because of a preternatural accumulation of blood, the equilibrium in the circulation of which has been destroyed. Of course, to cure, we have only to remove the obstructions which impede the circulation, or in other words to equalize the circulation. And to effect this speedily, the practice of Thomson is indispensably necessary.

We have thus as briefly as possible attempted to state the more general principles of Thomson, in relation to fever. His propositions and the terms in which they are expressed, should be understood in their most ordinary sense or meaning. The great stumbling-block of the faculty has arisen in consequence of their attaching to the terms a metaphysical meaning, or understanding them as used in their scientific sense, or in one which Thomson never meant they should bear. He built his theory upon his practice, and upon effects as they were manifested to his senses; he viewed things as they appeared to him, and sought no metaphysical explanation of what appeared sufficiently plain for all practical purposes. When these facts are properly appreciated, the man of science will be aware of the merits of the system, which, under other circumstances appears to him to be predicated upon erroneous principles; and he will no longer wonder at its rapid progress among those who have comprehended its truths.

We will close this article by the following extracts from a lecture in relation to the subject, by Dr. D. L. Terry, of Ohio, which we think will be interesting to the readers of the Manual.

"It has been the error of almost all popular writers to confound these two entirely different and directly opposite states of the human system—*fever* and *disease*. Combine these states of the system, and search

* In relation to this point, Professor Waterhouse, in his well-known papers under the signature of "An Eclectic," observes as follows:

"It is not probable that Samuel Thomson ever read the writings of Galen, yet it is remarkable that his doctrine of heat and cold, varies but little from that renowned physician's; and it is as remarkable that his belief in what Hippocrates, the Father of Physic, called Nature, the curer of disease, appears in all of Thomson's theories. He differs, however from the Grecian luminary of medicine, who waited for the crisis, or turn of a fever, whereas Thomson tries, at once, to keep nature in her salutary process, and by means that have startled the uninitiated. The first exhibition of all great and extraordinary improvements has always operated an alarm on the ignorant, as in the first cannon, first sky rocket, and first steam-boat. It is repetition that lessens fear, and adds to our stock of knowledge."

* Sunk in impenetrable darkness.

for the nature of fever in the heterogeneous compound, and all is chaos, confusion and darkness. By viewing the subject in this way, we are liable to mistake the effects of fever for those of disease, and *vice versa*.

"But there is no line of demarcation to be drawn between *fever* and *disease*, when they are as different as light and darkness, cold and heat, or black and white!

"We maintain, that the human system is endowed with a *vital power* of resistance, or a *conservative principle*, without which we could not withstand the influence of chemical affinity for a moment, so powerfully and constantly does it tend to the abolition of the laws of vitality. The facility with which wounds unite, and the termination of inflammatory swellings in what is called resolution, are the most incontestable evidences of the existence of this *healing power*. It must be one of the first and most important laws of life, its tendency being the preservation and continuance of animal existence. The principle is ever active in health as well as in disease; manifesting its influence in the former, in preserving an equilibrium in all the functions of the body; and, in the latter, in resisting morbid changes, relieving laboring and oppressed organs, restoring impeded functions, in equalizing the circulation, restoring sensibility, and establishing the reign of health throughout the system. In *disease* the active agency of this *restorative principle*, is manifested to our senses under that condition usually denominated *FEVER*, and sometimes termed *reaction*; without the occurrence of which, to a greater or less degree, the slightest disease could never be eradicated.

"In disease, this *power* or *principle* shows itself in the form and character of *fever*: or, if the disease be very circumscribed and local, it exhibits itself under the form of *local fever*, or *inflammation*. Fever, then, is an efficacious antidote for disease, being sufficient in many cases to check its progress without the assistance of extrinsic aid, which proves to us at once the vast difference existing between *fever* and *disease*—conditions of the system, the constant tendencies of which are diametrically opposed to each other, without the possibility of being united or reconciled.

"Fever is not disease, because its presence is incompatible with and even destructive to the characteristics of some of the most fatal forms of disease: such for instance as the cold plague and cholera, with several of the most powerful morbid affections of the nervous system. A *reaction* or *fever* is the cure of such diseases—hence it, in itself, cannot be *disease*.

"It is true that disease exists in every case where there is fever, but it exists, not in the form of a salutary action, or a restorative effort, but rather in the shape of a diminished vital action, suppressed secretions, impaired function, costive bowels, dry skin and lost appetite. It exists in the character of an eternal enemy to the *life-preserving* and *disease-destroying* principle which constitutes the very *essence* and *soul* of *fever*. Fever, or the manifestation of the *vis-vita*, [vital force,] so called, never occurs without an adequate cause, and that cause is disease.

"Some of the most aggravated and fatal forms of *disease* are unattended by *fever*; and, in the treatment of these, the great object is to bring on a *reaction* or *fever*; not for the purpose of adding one disease to another, but to deprive the disease of its

severity, and save the life of the patient. Cholera is one of the forms of disease to which the present allusion is applicable. Every one knows that cholera in its worst form, is unattended by *fever*; and that as soon as a complete reaction or fever occurs, the patient is relieved and the disease mainly subdued. This fact goes to prove that fever is not a proximate or ultimate principle of disease.

"If fever be *disease*, those affections called *febrile*, and which are attended with the highest degree of *fever*, should invariably be found most dangerous and fatal in their tendency; whereas the very reverse, as a general rule, (other things being equal,) is found to be the fact. The affections called putrid and typhus fevers, though universally admitted to be exceedingly fatal in their tendency, are peculiarly marked by the *low* grade of *fever* which attends them; and the best course of treatment now known, is, that which in effect is to raise the *fever* or *reaction*. What is also remarkable, though no way strange, in these affections is, that their danger increases as the fever diminishes, provided this diminution of fever be not owing to the removal of disease; and, most generally, several days previous to their fatal termination, the symptoms of the fever have entirely subsided. In *scarlet fever* it has been observed that such as have been attended with but slight and feeble development of *fever*, are most apt to terminate fatally. Hence such affections require for their cure, remedies, the stimulating effects of which are equally and generally diffused, medicines which determine the blood to every portion of the capillary system, to all the surfaces which perform the office of secretion and excretion. The tendency of such means is to obviate congestion, equalize the circulation, and restore the general process of secretion throughout the body."

THE PRESTON PRODIGY.—Daniel Hartley, son of John Hartley, New Preston, flagger and slater, was 12 years old on the 16th ult., and weighs 16 stone. He has on each foot six toes, and on each hand five fingers and a thumb. The immense weight of flesh with which he seems to be encumbered appears not to have abated any of the feelings of vivacity and spirit that lads of his age are wont to enjoy, but, on the contrary, his capacious paunch, and rubicund cheeks make him "look the character" of contentment and good humor "to the life." The mother of Daniel, about a month ago, presented her husband and the world with another six fingered son. There are other children of the same family, but they are not remarkable for differing from the common run of mortals.—[Preston (Eng.) Pilot.

ADVICE.—You may respect the opinions of others without following them; even as you may receive a man for a friend without making him your master. To spurn all advice is to acknowledge that you are afraid of it, and to close your ears to the warnings of a friend, proves that you dread his influence. He is more of a slave who fears to listen than he who listens and changes his intentions.

The odious hospital tax on seamen, of twenty cents a month, which was suspended for one year, will be imposed again, according to law, this month.

A SKETCH OF LAURA BRIDGMAN.

HORRIBLE RESULTS OF MEDICAL MAL-TREATMENT.

From the sixth annual report of the N. E. Institution for the Blind.

"Among the pupils who have entered during the past year, is one whose situation makes her an object of peculiar interest and lively sympathy. Laura Bridgman, a very pretty, intelligent, and sprightly girl, of eight years, is entirely blind, deaf, dumb, and almost entirely deprived of smell, and has been so since her infancy. Here is a human soul shut up in a dark and silent cell; all the avenues to it are closed, except that of touch, and it would seem that it must be but a blank; nevertheless it is active, and struggling continually not only to put itself in communication with things without, but to manifest what is going on within itself. The child is constantly active; she runs about the house, and up and down stairs; she frolics with the other children, or plays with her toys; she dresses and undresses herself with great precision, and behaves with propriety at the table and everywhere; she knows every inmate of the house by the touch, and is very affectionate to them. She can sew, and knit, and braid, and is quite as active and expert as any of the rest of the children. But all this, interesting as it is, is nothing compared to the mental phenomena which she presents; she has a quick sense of propriety; a sense of property; a love of approbation; a desire to appear neatly and smoothly dressed, and to make others notice that she is so; a strong tendency to imitation, insomuch that she will sit and hold a book steadily before her face in imitation of persons reading. It is difficult to say whether she has any sense of right and wrong disconnected with the feeling that such an action will be reprov'd, and such an one approved by those about her, but certain it is, she will retain nothing belonging to another; she will not eat an apple or piece of cake which she may find, unless signs are made that she may do so. She has an evident pleasure in playfully teasing or puzzling others. The different states of her mind are clearly marked upon her countenance, which varies with hope and fear, pleasure and pain, self-approbation and regret; and which, when she is trying to study out anything, assumes an expression of intense attention and thought.

"It was considered doubtful when she came, whether it would be possible to teach her any regular system of signs by which she could express her thoughts or understand those of others; it was deemed highly desirable, however, to make the experiment, and thus far it has been successful. Common articles, such as a knife, a spoon, a book, &c., were first taken, and labelled with their names in raised letters; she was made to feel carefully of the article with the name pasted upon it; then the name was given her on another piece of paper, and she quickly learned to associate it with the thing. Then the name of the thing being given on a separate label, she was required to select the thing from a number of other articles, or find the article; for instance, the word key was given her, on a bit of paper in raised letters; she would at once feel for a key on the table, and, not finding it, would rise and grope her way to the door, and place the paper upon the key with an expression of peculiar gratification. Thus far no attention was paid to the component letters of the word; the next step was to ascertain the correctness of her notion, by giving her metal types with the separate

letters on their ends; these she soon learned to arrange and to spell the word; for instance, the teacher would touch the child's ear, or put her hand on a book, then to the letters, and she would instantly begin to select the types and to set them in order in a little frame used for the purpose, and when she she had spelt the word correctly, she would show her satisfaction and assure her teacher that she understood, by taking all the letters of the word and putting them to her ear or on the book.

"She then learned the arrangement of the letters in the alphabet, and is now occupied in increasing her vocabulary of words. Having learned the alphabet and the arrangement of letters into words, which she associated with things, she was next taught the manual alphabet, as used by the deaf mutes, and it is a subject of delight and wonder to see how rapidly, correctly, and eagerly she goes on with her labors. Her teacher gives her a new object, for instance a pencil, first lets her examine it, and get an idea of its use, then teaches her how to spell it by making the signs for the letters with her own fingers; the child grasps her hand, and feels of her fingers, as the different letters are formed—she turns her head a little one side, like a person listening closely—her lips are apart—she seems scarcely to breathe—and her countenance, at first anxious, gradually changes to a smile, as she comprehends the lesson. She then holds up her little fingers and spells the word in the manual alphabet; next takes her types and arranges her letters, and last, to make sure that she is right, she takes the whole of the types composing the word, and places them upon or in contact with the pencil, or whatever the object may be.

"The process of teaching her is of course slow and tedious; the different steps to it must be suggested by her successive attainments, for there are no precedents to go by;* but thus far the results have been most gratifying. She has not yet been long enough under instruction (four months only) to have got beyond the names of substances; the more difficult task of giving her a knowledge of names, expressive of qualities, feelings, &c., remains yet to be accomplished. No sure prognostic can be made, but much is to be hoped from the intelligence of the child, and the eager delight with which she lends all her attention, and the strong effort she evidently makes to gain new ideas; not from fear of punishment, or hope of reward, but from the pleasure which the exercise of the faculties confers upon her. No pains or expense will be spared in efforts to develop the moral and intellectual nature of this interesting child, and no opportunity lost, of gathering for science whatever phenomena her singular case may furnish.

"Laura was born of intelligent and respectable parents, in Hanover, N. H. When a mere infant, she was subject to very painful and dangerous "fits," the nature of which do not seem to be well understood.† Until twenty months old, though a pretty and interesting child, she was weak and fragile—

* Julia Brace, the deaf, dumb, and blind girl, in the Institution for the Deaf Mutes, at Hartford, did not succeed in attaining a knowledge of the written signs significant of objects. Julia possessed her senses until the age of four years, and she is aided by a sense of smell, sharpened by practice, to the acuteness of the vulture, while Laura has it so imperfectly as that she may be said to be without smell. James Mitchell, whose case is mentioned by Dugald Stewart and other philosophers, did not learn any system of arbitrary signs, nor is there any case on record of a person deprived of sight and hearing succeeding in doing so.

breath would have blown out the flame; but at that age she began to rally; her health seemed firmly established; her mental faculties rapidly developed themselves, and when she had attained her second year she was more intelligent and sprightly than common children; she could already prattle some words, and had mastered the difference between A. and B. But in a month after her sky was again overcast; she sickened and came near unto death; the disease, however, seemed to be baffled within, and to have fastened upon the external organs of sense, (!!!!!) and in five weeks it was perceived that her sight and hearing were forever destroyed. During seven weeks of pain and fever she tasted not a morsel of food; for five months was she obliged to be kept in a darkened room; it was a year before she could walk unsupported, and two years before she could sit up all day. She was now four years old, and as her health and strength began to be established, she learned to go about the house and manifested a desire to be employed; not by her looks, for she was blind—not by words, for she was dumb! She could, it is true, for a time pronounce the few words she had before learned; but not hearing the *sound of her own voice*, she soon lost the command of her articulation—the sound answered not to the thought—the will lost command of the tongue—and the last articulate word she was ever heard to utter, was “book!” But she was not only deaf, and dumb, and blind, her isolation was still more complete—the sense of smell was so blunted as to be *entirely useless*, and only affected by pungent odors; of course, half the pleasure of *taste* was gone, and she manifested indifference about the flavor of food.

“It would seem that in this total darkness—this dreary stillness—this isolation from all communication with kindred spirits, the immaterial mind must have remained in infantile imbecility, while the body grew in stature and strength, or have attained a perception of its loneliness, only to pine and die at the discovery. But not so; every day she became more active and more cheerful; and she is now (as far as the closest scrutiny can ascertain the state of her mind) not only unrepining, but contented and happy. The sense of touch alone remains, and the sight of this unfortunate girl fills one with admiration, not only of the perfectability of the senses, but of the wonderful power of the mind to adapt its operation to any circumstances of its bodily tenement—to put itself in relation with external things, and to obtain its own stimuli and manifest its own emotions through the most imperfect media.

“There is the strongest evidence of a thirst for knowledge—of an internal, intellectual want which can be gratified only by a new idea. Her greatest pleasure is to learn a new stitch—a new word—or to discover the application and use of any new thing; and her eagerness to learn is only equalled by the quickness of perception which she manifests.

“There is strong hope that if her life be spared, the patient and persevering efforts of the humane, aided by the ingenuity and counsels of the wise, will succeed in throwing much light into her dreary prison, and be rewarded not only by the satisfaction of imparting happiness, but by new views of the operations of mind.”*

* This observation, like similar ones in other parts of the article, is perfectly ridiculous. We will notice the subject further in a succeeding page.

LEGISLATURE OF MAINE.

Remarks of Mr. Smart, in the Senate, on the Bill to repeal the first section of an Act regulating Physic and Surgery.

Mr. SMART said, that inasmuch as he had been one of the joint select committee that had under consideration the petitions of about 2000 persons praying for the repeal of the law regulating the practice of physic and surgery, he felt it his duty to submit a few remarks for the consideration of gentlemen at the board, who, he hoped, would give him their candid attention.

The law which the petitioners pray may be repealed was never, he believed, demanded by the people. The opinion is very prevalent that it does not, in the least, prevent quackery; but it stigmatizes some of our most meritorious and worthy citizens—it shields and protects one class of men, however incapacitated many of them may be to perform medical duties, while another class, many of which it is proved are the best practitioners are debarred from reaping the benefits of their honest industry. This, the majority of the committee believed to be wrong—they believed that the community would be safer without the law, and that it was just and proper that men and systems should stand or fall by their own merits.

Mr. S. said he had heard quackery denounced by gentlemen at the board, and could truly say, that his heart responded to their words,—nothing, he would agree was more odious than quackery.

Although the talent of the Senate had been taxed to paint its horrors in glowing colors, he believed the story had not half been told. He had heard of “Thomsonian quacks.” He doubted not that many individuals calling themselves Thomsonian doctors were impostors and quacks. He once believed that all who pretended to skill as such were so—his physician told him so—the statutes told him so, and by some strange hallucination he believed that the law was *just and equal*! He believed that the constitution enjoined upon us to reward merit—to pass no *ex post facto* laws, nor those that had a tendency to impair the obligation of contracts; and that as all men were created equal, one should not have privileges granted above another, or in other words, one man should not be refused compensation for services, while another for similar services is liberally paid. Hence, he looked upon all Thomsonian practitioners as quacks,—they must be so, or there was fault in the laws. But he at length was led to believe it *possible* that men were doing wrong to suffer themselves to be blinded by prejudice, and he determined to make a free and unprejudiced enquiry—to watch all cases that came within his inspection, and ascertain, if possible, whether the Thomsonian practitioners were entitled to support. The result convinced him that their labors were attended with *better* success than the legalized physicians; and public opinion would bear him out in saying that although a few quacks have imposed upon the community, yet there were many skilful, valuable Thomsonian physicians, who have done much to alleviate the sufferings of their fellow men. He had said that the whole story had not been told about *quackery*—it was not pleasant to tell it—it was disgusting—it would not suit the arguments of gentlemen to do so. He then might be permitted to say, that it was within the knowledge of all that

many men go through the "regular course" of study, as it is called, get a diploma, and set up for themselves, who are the veriest quacks in the world—legalized quacks—worse than RUM-SELLERS, for the law but *suffers* the latter while it *sanctions* the former. The reason is obvious—they have no genius—no industry. Facts, he doubted not, would show, that some of these members of the "Medical Faculty" had killed more human beings than Cæsar or Bonaparte, and yet are sanctioned by the law, and extravagantly paid for their work of death. He was thankful that public opinion was fast changing on this subject; and trusted the day would soon arrive when the antidote administered to counteract the influence of the pestilence would not be worse than the bane.

The people will not longer bear dictation in these matters—the public voice is now proclaiming in language not to be misunderstood, that it will be the judge of its own wants—it will select its own servants, whether they be legislators, divines or physicians,—it will rule that laws shall give equal protection to all—that the road to distinction shall be open to all—that there shall be no competition between two classes of physicians, but that each individual shall stand or fall on his own merits—that he who pretends to superior attainments or endowments shall support his claims, not by appealing to his lineage or his associations, but by what he accomplishes. If a man employs another as a physician, the presumption is that he has confidence in his ability,—life is sweet, and is the first object he would protect. What reason is there, then, that the man whom he selects shall not receive protection from the laws that he may be compensated for his services? Sir, no *honorable* man would avail himself of a chance of depriving a creditor of his pay, and shall the Legislature of the State of Maine afford facilities to knaves that a man of common honesty will scorn to use?

If *merit* was to be the test in this question, the Thomsonians would bear comparison with the legalized physicians. In proportion to their numbers they are as skilful, and he would challenge proof to the contrary. No gentleman at the board would hazard his reputation by a contradiction. This law I believe to be opposed to your State Constitution, which declares that all men are born *equally* free and independent, and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable *rights*, among which are those of enjoying and *defending* life and LIBERTY. But the present law instead of defending *liberty*, tends to *restrict* men in the defence of life, and force them to gulp down calomel under the direction of legalized quacks!

Extraordinary efforts have been made throughout the Union to put down the Thomsonian practitioners by arbitrary laws and libellous denunciation. But those who pursue this course mistake very much—they forget that the people "who rarely deal unjustly" judge impartially in the case—and their decision is in favor of a repeal—this is evinced by their petitions. In many States they have obtained a repeal of similar laws, and in some States of the Union the practice of physicians who dispense with the use of mineral poisons is more extensive than the other; and so far from being "quacks" they are allowed to have made great improvements in the science of medicine. These practitioners have done much to strip the former practice of its mystification and jugglery, and although the skilful and meritorious of the legalized

class may not be injured by their competitors, yet the *quacks* in the ranks of the "regulars" are exposed and brought down.

But abolish the present law and you raise the standard of medical practice—the Thomsonian will be encouraged, by having an open field for his labors, to applying himself to improvement; and the quack, now legalized, will either be obliged to qualify himself to support his pretensions, or withdraw from a profession he disgraces.

Mr. S. said he had before stated that he was no friend of quacks. On the contrary he heartily despised them, and was as willing as any body to ferret out the evil of quackery; but, his way of doing it was a little different from that of the learned faculty—he would not say *people*, for they never demanded the present law. The medical faculty had tried in vain to draw the line of distinction between that which was quackery and that which was not. Even gentlemen physicians at this board, will not deny that many who receive diplomas are but quacks, while many skilful physicians are among those that the law terms impostors. It seems from this that their way of doing business was not successful—the line was not drawn by the law. His way was, to permit medical practitioners to be sustained by merit alone, and the line between merit and demerit would soon be drawn.

Why not, then, abolish a law which has failed to answer the ends for which it was created; a law for the repeal of which 2000 petitioners have prayed, many of whom are the first citizens of the State; a law arbitrary and unjust;—a law which stigmatizes some of our most valuable citizens—that prescribes a particular path that all must travel in, thus making a machine of the mind and circumscribing genius; a law which would well compare with the Chinese customs compelling generation after generation to perpetuate the practices and follies of ages past!

[The law is repealed!]

POISONING CHILDREN.—Parents, read this and beware of drugging your infants.

A coroner's inquest was held on Thursday sen^t-night, at Leicester, Pa., on the body of an infant two or three days old, which died in consequence of having taken about three quarters of a teaspoonful of Godfrey's cordial, administered to it in order to make it sleep in the night. A medical gentleman being asked by the coroner whether three quarters of a teaspoonful of Godfrey's cordial would suffice to cause the death of an infant only three days old, deposed that all such mixtures contained opium, and were dangerous, highly dangerous to infants, even in the smallest quantities. One drop of opium had been known to destroy a child a day old, and he had himself seen the death of a child ensue from a small quantity of syrup of poppies, which was the mildest preparation of opium. No opiate, in however a small quantity, could be given to an infant without danger.

There is no man so bad that he has not some good quality in his composition, and none so just that he is not, in some respects, faulty. For this reason no man should be considered wholly beneath our consideration, or worthy of our unqualified admiration.

COUGHS AND COLDS.

[By a correspondent of the Boston Times.]

Colds are caused by destroying the equilibrium of heat in the system, by suddenly cooling or heating(?) one part of the body, while other parts remain in the usual state. If the whole body is suddenly heated or cooled, at one and the same time, we sustain little or no injury. For instance, a person may be suddenly immersed in cold water, when he is very warm, without injury, if the whole body is plunged in at once; but if the feet alone, or any other portion of the body, less than the whole, is immersed either in very cold or very hot water, a cold will generally ensue. A person may leave his bed in the coldest winter night, and without any article of clothing upon him, except some thing upon the feet to prevent them from cooling faster than other parts of the body, go out, and remain till he is nearly chilled through, and he will not take cold, if the whole body is warmed again at one and the same time; but if after thus going out, the person, on entering the house, warm only a part of the body, and leave the other part chilled, a severe cold would be likely to ensue.

I am inclined to think, that no person would ever have a cold, or cough, or consumption, if all parts of his system were always at the same moment of time, reduced to a like temperature, however sudden, great, or frequent might be the changes. When a person is very cold, it is not safe to go to a fire and suddenly heat some parts of the body, while the other parts remain cold. It is not safe to sit by a hot fire on a cold day, and burn one side and freeze the other, as the vulgar phrase is,—a cold will certainly ensue. It is not safe to clothe one part of the body warmly, while another part is thinly clad, it is better that the whole clothing should be thick or thin. It is not safe to go from a warm room into the open air without covering the mouth and face, to prevent the lungs and face from being suddenly chilled, while other parts of the body remain warm.

Any one may easily test the truth of this assertion who has the boldness to try the experiment. Let him be bundled up ever so warm, and go from a warm room, where he has been for some time, into the open air in a cold day, and breathe fast and freely, in a manner similar to the breathing of a person who is out of breath from running, and he will contract a severe cold upon the lungs. This is more injurious when done standing still, than when done while walking fast or running. The person who does it will instantly feel a dizziness and a rumbling noise in the head, the color will entirely forsake his cheek, his strength will be gone, and he will experience a sensation similar to that of a person beginning to faint. This sensation will continue some moments. A frequent repetition of this experiment is dangerous, otherwise than by causing colds; it sometimes fills the blood with wind, the effects of which may be felt for years.

It is an excellent plan, on going out, to cover the face, especially the mouth,—there should be a uniformity in clothing the different parts of the body. Nature is continually striving to keep an equal degree of heat in all parts of the body, and if one part is constantly more exposed than others, nature so disposes the blood vessels, the circulation, the flesh and skin of that part, as to render it less susceptible of the effects of heat and cold. These reflections may be of some service to the reader. When the

cause of colds is known, it only requires care to prevent them.

Let all parts of the body be equally warmed or cooled at the same time, and you will never have a cough or cold.

INFLUENCE OF MARRIAGE ON THE DURATION OF HUMAN LIFE.—The London *Lancet*, for January 13, contains some interesting calculations on this subject. They are based upon three exact documents, made in different countries and at different periods, and which prove, in the most convincing manner, that notwithstanding the anxieties and cares which are connected, in both sexes, with the married state, and notwithstanding the mysterious curse, originally pronounced against the fair and frailer part of creation, still weighs heavily upon it* (causing one woman out of every 108 who bring forth a child to perish),† yet marriage contributes very remarkably to lengthen the duration of human life.

The first document is that of Odier, whose observations on the mean duration of life in females, were made during the years 1761 to 1813 inclusive. From his tables it appears that the difference of life between married and unmarried females is, on an average (calculating marriage to take place at five different periods between the age of 20 and 40), five years; or, to place the fact in a stronger light, a young woman at 20, by marrying, adds nine years and a half to the probable duration of her life; a woman at 40 adds two and a sixth years.

Departieux's tables relate to both sexes, and comprise a total of 48,540 deaths, from 1715 to 1744.—From these it appears that the number of married men who die after the age of 20 is nearly *one half* less than the number of bachelors who die at the same period; and for 43 married men or widowers who attain the age of 90, we find only 6 unmarried men reaching the same age. The number of single women who die after the age of 20, is about *four* times greater than that of married females or widows dying after the same period; and 14 unmarried women only arrive at the age of 90, for every 112 married women or widows who attain that age. These tables not only show a remarkable difference in the mortality of the two classes between the ages of 20 and 30, when other causes doubtless have much influence in producing the effect among the married (such as their better worldly condition at that age, &c.) but also at later periods of life; for they show that taking 100 married and unmarried individuals, the number of those who live beyond the age of 45 is greater by 36.8 in the former class than in the latter. The tables composed by Biches, at Amsterdam, comprise a period of 12 years, from 1814 to 1826, and coincide in a remarkable manner with those already referred to—the only difference in result being in the circumstance that the mortality of married women during the period at which they commonly become mothers, is now less than it was a century ago.

The facts thus established, upon the authority of carefully taken records in France, Switzerland, and Holland, confirm the fact that the fulfilment of a pleasing duty, on the part of both sexes, is calculated to add many years to the probable duration of human existence.—[Med. & Sur. Journal.

* And, more or less, the female world at large?

† Particularly under the influence of 'regular' treatment!—[Ed. Man.]

PROGRESS OF REFORM!

[From the Philadelphia Public Ledger.]

We have been, for some time past, a spectator of the war between the faculty and the Thomsonians, and have more than once been astonished at the want of candor and discrimination evinced by the former. By a systematic warfare against Thomson and Thomsonians, without the least examination of the system, they have done their utmost to promote it, and to injure their own profession. The course of many of them has excited a general suspicion, daily gaining ground, that they consider their own interest distinct from the interest of humanity, and are endeavoring to invest medicine with mystery, and to keep the world in ignorance of it, for the purpose of promoting their own fortunes. We do not make this accusation indiscriminately. Every great mind in the profession—and, like all others, it contains great minds—is above such meanness, and will revere truth, from whatever holes it be drawn. But the faculty, like every other profession, contains its share of *vermin*, and the ignorance and malignity of these have cast undeserved odium upon the whole profession. Particularly has their indiscriminate warfare against Thomsonians forced Thomson's system into ignorant hands, and made it the means of doing harm, where it should have done good. But this is not all. The general success of Thomsonian practice, notwithstanding it has been in ignorant hands, and notwithstanding such hands may have killed a few patients, has convinced thousands of its merits, whether their conviction be right or wrong; for they have very judiciously said, that when a system administered by the ignorant, cures more patients than another system administered by the learned, it must be the best of the two, and ought to be in skilful hands.

Brought up among the faculty, and belonging to a family that has produced several eminent members of it, we have been accustomed, from boyhood, to regard it with respect, notwithstanding we have seen it infested by a host of members without knowledge or principle. We cannot, therefore, be supposed to entertain any hostilities against it, and readily admit that our respect for it as a profession, is not diminished by the ignorance and want of honesty displayed by some of its prominent members, on the trial of Frost. We would still see it flourish, the shield of mankind against disease; but we are convinced that it cannot flourish by indiscriminate warfare against any innovations.

[From the Beaver (Pa.) Aurora.]

"Richard K. Frost, the Thomsonian practitioner who was lately convicted of manslaughter by his practice in the city of New York, has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of five hundred dollars."

We find the above in the *Indiana Sun* of a late date. This punishment is for the alleged administration of poisonous medicines to one Tiberius G. French, who had been placed under Dr. Frost's care and medical treatment, by Mr. French's own brother. The poisonous medicine administered, was *Lobelia inflata*!! We have administered to ourselves and others, the above medicine, both in tincture and powder, more than a hundred times,

and seen it given by others perhaps a thousand times, and always with the most beneficial and happy effects. Whether Dr. Frost is amerced as above stated,* we do not know; if so, we should like to have seen it done on other testimony than that of Dr. Rogers.

[From the New York Mirror.]

THE YOUNG QUACK—AN EXTRACT.—No history is more ludicrous than that of a young "medical gentleman" forcing his way into distinction, and gradually emerging from the obscurity in which his professional *debut* was shrouded. "A horse and gig are indispensable ingredients to a physician's prosperity; and the manner in which he drives his vehicle, and at the same time his business, is highly edifying and amusing. Morning, noon, and night, he is on the move, and is quite an ubiquitous character; indefatigable and bustling, with an appearance of intense anxiety on his brow: he generally times his movements in such a manner as to encounter a procession or public assemblage in his rapid course, and elicit the observation, "There goes Dr. ——— to a patient; how busy he always is! I wonder who is taken ill?" He never fails to pass the church at full speed when the congregation is issuing therefrom; and when he enters the steepled edifice, on a devotional errand, there is very little doubt that his servant will creep stealthily along the aisle, to his pew,—whisper something mysteriously in his ear, which will have the effect of disturbing him in the middle of his prayers, and compel him to leave the church. Presently will be heard the sound of the wheels of an eager and impatient traveller, and the occurrences of sickness and casualty will be clearly intimated. Should a curious and prying scrutinizer however, follow the doctor in his eager haste, he would probably discover, that when at a convenient distance from town, the speed of the horse would be checked, and after riding some four or five miles a retrograde movement would ensue, and a return to the starting place be determined upon. He goes on a journey to *bleed mile-stones*, and to play upon the gullibility of the multitude."

VITALITY OF SEEDS.—Professor Henshaw lately made experiments with seeds of an acacia, to determine how far their vitality was impaired by heat.—He put some of these seeds into boiling water; others he actually boiled 1½, 3, 6, and 15 minutes; he planted them afterwards in the earth, and they all germinated and grew, in half the time that seeds did which had not been steeped or boiled. On opening an ancient British tumulus, some small seeds were found in the stomach of a human skeleton, which must have been eaten and lain there two thousand years. Some of these were planted in the horticultural garden, by Prof. Lindley, germinated and have produced fruit. They prove to be the common raspberry.

A GOLDEN RULE.—"A good physician should always be intent on the welfare of his patient, and cannot conscientiously urge upon his patient a remedy he would be unwilling to swallow himself, in case of an exchange of circumstances."

* Ten dollars, and no imprisonment, was the penalty.—[Ed. Man.]

THE MANUAL.



J. P. CHAPMAN, EDITOR.

"That which has a tendency to destroy life, can never be useful in restoring health."—SAMUEL THOMSON.

BOSTON, APRIL 15, 1838.

GLORIOUS VICTORY!—We are indebted to Dr. N. Smith, of Hallowell, Maine, for a copy of *The Age* newspaper, containing the excellent speech of Mr. Smart in the Senate of that State, in favor of the repeal of the first section of the medical law. The paper also contains the remarks of Mr. Harmon, of the House, on the same subject. We have copied a portion of the speech of Mr. Smart on a preceding page, as testimony of the highest value in favor of our cause; and we are happy to say, it was not made in vain. The odious provision, which could operate only as a check upon knowledge or science, is no longer law, and Maine is redeemed! May our friends deserve the confidence of the people!

EDITORIAL COURTESY.—We observe that a large portion of one or two of our contemporary Botanic journals is made up of selections from our columns. We notice also, that the editors of those papers,—probably through *carelessness*—for we would not willingly suspect them of *meanness*,—omit the customary "credit" for many of those articles, and in one instance, at least, accredit another periodical for an article which originally appeared in the *Manual*. We do not speak of this matter because we are very desirous of obtaining the little credit *due* those articles; but for the purpose of extending to those gentlemen, as well as all others of our contemporaries, a full privilege to make free use of any of our articles, *without credit*—upon one condition, viz: that they will print those articles, in their respective papers, as *original*. We make this condition, because, next to seeing their paternity attributed to another, it is most disagreeable to see our progeny wandering about like so many deserted children. We shall continue to *exchange* with the papers referred to upon no other condition than the one above specified—except upon the terms of usual reciprocity.

Our learned friend, Dr. A. Curtis, "*Principal of the Botanico-Medical School of Columbus, Ohio, Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, Lecturer on Anatomy, Physiology, Botany and Chemistry, and Editor of the Botanico-Medical Recorder*," will find an article on succeeding pages, which he will probably be highly gratified in perusing. We would also call the attention of the general reader to said article, which commences on page 188. We imagine that the next dirty trick of Dr. Curtis will be committed with some little hesitation. If the article referred to does not make some of Curtis's admirers ashamed of him, they must, if there is truth in the old adage, be friends *indeed*.

LAURA BRIDGMAN.—We have placed on a preceding page, a sketch of the painfully interesting history of this little girl, copied from the sixth annual report of the New England Institution for the Education of the Blind, just published. The report, of course, does not speak of her unfortunate condition, (her being blind, deaf, dumb, and almost entirely deprived of the sense of smell,) as being the "horrible results of medical mal-treatment," but the report will not permit us to make any other deduction; and few Thomsonians, we imagine, will read the details of her illness without a shudder, or without making an inference similar to ours.

It is not a little astonishing, by the way, that any exaggeration of her condition should be attempted to be made. Such nevertheless is the case; and the author of the report not only talks of her "*total isolation from all communication*," and of "*new views of the operations of mind*,"—but the editor of the Medical and Surgical Journal, following in his wake, speaks of her as "*an individual giving conclusive evidence of being in possession of a mind, operating INDEPENDENTLY(!) of those organs of sense on which its very powers, nay, existence, as some affirm, necessarily depend*." Now the condition of Laura will not warrant, in the least degree, these assertions; every fact which the report contains is opposed to them, and shows that her mind manifests itself *only* through the senses she yet retains. It seems therefore worse than folly to say that she "gives evidence of a mind acting *independently* of the organs of sense," and such an assertion can only be classed with those numerous "*stretchers*" which so often occur even in the learned world, but the chief intent of which is merely to excite the gaping wonderment of the ignorant and vulgar. The operations of her mind no more manifest themselves *independently* of the senses of which she is in possession, than is the case with any person in the entire possession of every sense.

"She neither hears, sees, speaks, or smells, (continues the Journal); touch and taste are the only avenues through which she holds communication with the world: and were these taken away, is it likely that the body would be reduced to vegetable life, bereft of its now presiding, controlling power of intellect?"

If we were disposed to speculate upon this point, we are doubtful whether our guesses—for such only could they be—would bring any more real knowledge than we possess already: but we are perfectly satisfied that while this individual *does* possess the senses of touch and taste, and partially that of smell, she will be *infinitely* removed from mere vegetable life, whatever might be her condition if totally deprived of every sense.

QUERY—Could she possess sensation without the organs of sense?—If she were deprived of all sensation would she exist at all as a living being?

TO EXTRACT A PIN HEAD OR ANY FOREIGN SUBSTANCE OUT OF THE EAR.—Let a very large syringe be used, as an air-pump. This is said to be certainly effectual, by the person advising it.

Small pox is said to be prevailing among several of the Indian tribes to an exceedingly fatal degree. Some of the tribes, numbering several thousands, have been almost totally annihilated.

MEDICAL SCIENCE OF THE INDIANS.

We gather the principal facts here presented to the reader, from 'Thatchers's' "Indian Traits."

Disease among the Indians is chiefly brought on by long-continued abstinence, by crude and unwholesome food, by immoderate eating, by very violent exercise, extreme fatigue, exposure to the night air, and lying upon the wet ground. Mr. Heckewelder, the missionary, states that consumption, pleurisy, the phthisic, (among children,) dysentery and rheumatism are common disorders. The last named frequently attacks persons of all ages. The only instance of a *rickety* Indian child which we know of, is mentioned by the traveller Schoolcraft, as observed a few years ago, in a village near the river Wabash. This was a boy about ten years of age, who had the misfortune to be born deaf and dumb, and, having been neglected by his parents, had now become so much affected by the rickets as to be unable to move. Mr. S. saw the poor little fellow sitting upon the naked earth, within the wigwam, confined by a cord—no doubt to prevent him from doing mischief while the parents were absent. His body was emaciated to a frightful degree, and he continually uttered a low dismal cry of the most wretched kind!

There are many forms of disease among whites with which Indians are not troubled—such as the stone, scrofula, apoplexy, dyspepsy, and other disorders owing, obviously, to the habits of luxury and indolence peculiar for the most part to civilized life. Some of the most fatal of our disorders have been introduced, however, and made frightful ravages among all the tribes—of which small-pox is an example. In 1758, the ravages among the Cherokees, of small-pox, reduced the population of that numerous tribe to about one half in a year's time. Their medical treatment failing to allay this disorder, which has always proved peculiarly fatal among the Indians, a great many of the sick killed themselves in their despair,—rushing desperately, in their sullen madness, into the fire, and there slowly burning to death, with as little apparent sensibility to pain as if they had naturally no power of feeling it. Others cut their throats, or stabbed themselves with knives and sharp-pointed canes.

Among all the tribes there is a class who act as doctors. Although many of them are great impostors in some respects, they often effect astonishing cures; and some really useful knowledge, and some curious dexterity and ingenuity, almost all of them undoubtedly possess. Mr. Heckewelder had so much faith in the practice of these functionaries, that when he had once suffered, two days and two nights, the most excruciating pain, from a felon or whitlow on one of his fingers, he applied to an old woman for relief; and she, in less than half an hour, cured him entirely by the application of a poultice made of the common blue violet. And Mr. Adair says, "I would prefer an old Indian before any chirurgeon whatsoever, in curing green wounds, bullets, arrows, &c., as well for the certainty and ease, as for the speediness of cure." They very rarely cut the flesh, and still more rarely amputate the limb, of a wounded man. The following anecdote happily illustrates their ideas on this point.

In the year 1749, a party of friendly Chickasaw

Indians visited Charleston (S.C.) with Mr. Adair. It happened that, on the day of their arrival, a surgeon, of the English troops quartered there at the time, cut off the wounded arm of a poor soldier. The Indians were greatly shocked by the information. 'It was butchery,' they said, 'which would disable and disfigure the man all the rest of his life; and the surgeon might as well by the same rule, have cut off the poor fellow's *head*, had he been wounded in that part.'

Mr. Heckewelder has a story of a famous Shawanese chieftain, who about the time when the revolutionary war broke out, conducted several American traders through the wilderness of what is now Ohio as far as Pittsburgh, where there was then a fort. The generous warrior, soon after commencing his return, was waylaid and shot by some of his own countrymen who panted to revenge upon the whites the murder of one of their own number by an American, and who hated the Chieftain for befriending them. The wound was a severe one, in the breast; and he travelled on in this situation, eighty miles, the blood issuing from his body at every breath. Here he met Mr. Heckewelder, whom he assured of the certainty of his being healed if he could only reach a certain village, fifty miles distant, where were several Indian surgeons of eminence. He did so and was perfectly cured. Ten years afterwards the missionary saw him at Detroit, in sound health.

The Indian doctors are not unaware of what their more civilized brethren classically denominate "counter irritation." When a pain is felt in any part of the body, which they do not know how to account for, or how to *get at*, they apply a lighted piece of torch-wood, or a burning pine-knot, directly to the flesh; and this they endure with perfect composure till they feel, or imagine they feel, some relief. Mc'Kenzie saw a sick man, among one of the tribes west of the Rocky Mountains, whose sides and bosom were all covered with scars, caused by the application of fire.

But an essential part of the Indian medical 'art,' consists in a variety of fantastic ceremonies and stratagems; intended generally as an ingenious mode of cheating the unlucky patient out of his property in the way of *fees*, though no doubt sometimes meant, and even well adapted, to benefit his health by favorably affecting his imagination.—The Indians universally believing in witchcraft and other evil influence, the jugglers have only to pretend that the disorder on account of which application is made to them, is one that no *common* medicine will heal, and to the treatment of which the talents of *common* physicians are not competent. Supernatural remedies, say they, must be applied, to defeat the designs of the malicious enemy who has possession of the sick man's body.

Having persuaded his feeble patient of the truth of these preposterous statements, the juggler next convinces him of the necessity of making *him* 'very strong,'—that is, giving him a large fee in advance for his great trouble and immense skill. Of course, the juggler very rarely fails, when applied to, in the first instance, to represent the disorder as *one of the witchcraft kind*. He receives his fee—a rifle, perhaps, or a good horse—and is then ready to commence operations. Attired in a frightful dress, he approaches his patient, with a va-

riety of contortions and gestures, and performs by his side and over him all the antic tricks that his imagination can suggest. He breathes on him, blows in his mouth, and squirts some medicines which he has prepared, in his face, mouth and nose; he rattles his gourd filled with dry beans or pebbles, and pulls out and handles about a variety of sticks and bundles, in which he appears to be seeking for the proper remedy. All this is accompanied with the most horrid gesticulations, by which he endeavors, as he says, to frighten the spirit or the disorder away; and he continues in this manner until he is quite exhausted and out of breath, when he retires to await the issue.

This description, applied by Heckewelder to the Delaware jugglers, holds true of the same class, under various names, throughout the continent. The traveller, Henry, gives a description of a singular scene witnessed by him among one of the remote Lake tribes. The patient in this case, was a female child of about twelve years of age.

The juggler seated himself on the ground, and before him, on a new blanket, was placed a basin of water, in which were three bones. In his hand, he had his rattle, with which he beat time to his *medicine song*. The sick child lay on a blanket, near the physician. She appeared to have much fever, and a severe oppression of the lungs, breathing with difficulty, and betraying symptoms of the last stage of consumption. After singing for some time, the physician took one of the bones out of the basin: the bone was hollow; and one end being applied to the breast of the patient, he put the other into his mouth, in order to remove the disorder by suction. Having persevered in this as long as he thought proper, he suddenly seemed to force the bone into his mouth, and swallow it. He now acted the part of one suffering severe pain; but, presently finding relief, he made a long speech, and after this, returned to singing, and to the accompaniment of his rattle. With the latter, during his song, he struck his head, breast, sides and back; at the same time straining, as if to vomit forth the bone. Relinquishing this attempt, he applied himself to suction a second time, and with the second of the three bones; and this also he soon seemed to swallow. Upon its disappearance, he began to distort himself in the most frightful manner, using every gesture which could convey the idea of pain: at length, he succeeded, or pretended to succeed, in throwing up one of the bones. This was handed about to the spectators, and strictly examined; but nothing remarkable could be discovered. Upon this, he went back to his song and rattle; and after some time threw up the second of the two bones. In the groove of this, the physician, upon examination, found, and displayed to all present, a small white substance, resembling a piece of the quill of a feather. It was passed round the company, from one to the other, and declared by the physician to be the thing causing the disorder of his patient.

Unluckily for this poor girl, all the juggler's distortions and declarations proved alike vain and false; for she died on the day succeeding this performance. The juggler then asserted, no doubt, that he was called upon too late, or that he was not made *strong enough* (with fees) to master the evil spirit. The Indians are commonly simple enough to be satisfied with such explanations, while, on the other hand, every accidental recovery is remembered as a prodigious triumph of the juggler's art.

OPIUM-EATING.—The habit of eating opium, once begun, is hardly ever relinquished; once a *Theriaki*, always a *Theriaki*. Opium-eaters generally begin with doses of half a grain to two grains, and gradually increase the quantity till it amounts to two drachms and sometimes more, a day: they usually take the opium in pills, but avoid drinking any water after having swallowed them, as this is said to produce violent colic. To make it more palatable, it is sometimes mixed with syrups or thickened juices; but in this form it is less intoxicating and resembles mead; it is then taken with a spoon, or is dried in small cakes. The effect of the opium manifests itself one or two hours after it has been taken, and lasts for four or six hours, according to the dose taken and the idiosyncrasy of the subject. In persons accustomed to take it, it produces a high degree of animation, which the *Theriaki* (opium-eaters) represent as the acme of happiness.

The habitual opium-eater is instantly recognized by his appearance. A total attenuation of body, a withered, yellow countenance, a lame gait, a bending of the spine, frequently to such a degree as to assume a circular form, and glossy, deep-sunken eyes, betray him at the first glance. The digestive organs are in the highest degree disturbed; the sufferer eats scarcely anything, and has hardly one evacuation in a week! his mental and bodily powers are destroyed—he is impotent. By degrees, as the habit becomes more confirmed, his strength continues decreasing, the craving for the stimulus becomes even greater, and to produce the desired effect, the dose must constantly be augmented. When the dose of two or three drachms a day no longer produces the beatific intoxication, so eagerly sought after, they mix the opium with corrosive sublimate, increasing the quantity, till it reaches to ten grains a day; it then acts as a stimulant.

After long indulgence, the opium-eater becomes subject to nervous or neuralgic pains, to which opium itself brings no relief. These people seldom attain the age of forty, if they have become to use opium at an early age. The torments of the victim of opium, when deprived of this stimulant, are as dreadful as his bliss is complete when he has taken it. Those who do make the attempt to discontinue its use, usually mix it with wax, and daily diminishing the quantity of opium, the pill at last contains nothing but wax.—[Medical and Surgical Journal.

Strange!—but considering the force of prejudice and habit, not so very strange, after all!—that an article producing such injurious effects when taken in health, should be ranked among the “best of medicines”—yet so it is,—and few if any of the patients of the medical faculty, escape without swallowing more or less of this poisonous drug in some of its forms; and we have no doubt that the delirium with which the patients of the faculty are so often affected, is chiefly owing to the administration of opium.

By the way—our legislature is about prohibiting the retail traffic in ardent spirits, except by the common dealers in poisons, apothecaries. Might it not be judicious, at the same time, to prohibit (*except as medicine!!!*) the sale of *opium* to drunkards, who will use it instead of rum, if more easily obtained? They can now purchase *opium* without a *recipe*, in any quantity, and it would prove incalculably worse in its effects than rum or brandy;—in proportion, as bad in health then, as in sickness now.

BOTANICO CURTIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MANUAL:

Sir:—I should not obtrude my affairs upon you, or the public, but that Dr. Curtis, the individual above named, has published a deliberate falsehood in relation to myself, which I have not the means of contradicting, except through the medium of your columns. The following paragraph, copied from a late number of the *Botanico-Medical Recorder*, contains the falsehood to which I allude:

"We are happy to say that the last number of the *Botanic Sentinel* contains the announcement that no more personal abuse shall be admitted into that paper. M. Mattson, Esq. has been dismissed from the editorial chair, and the proprietor, Dr. Coates takes the helm. As he says he intends to stand by it, we doubt not that this fine ship will be better managed in future, than she has been lately; and we cordially recommend her to the patronage of her former friends, and to present strangers."

Dr. Curtis unqualifiedly asserts that I have been "dismissed from the editorial chair!" Where did he get his information? No such a statement appeared in the *Botanic Sentinel*, because John Coates, jr. the proprietor of that paper, would not have dared to make an announcement so utterly false. What then is the inference? Why, that Dr. Curtis fabricated the report himself, and gave it publicity in the *Recorder* to injure my character. It is better, however, to be the object of his abuse, than the dupe of his hypocrisy. I confess I have not entertained a very exalted opinion of his character for the last eight months—but I scarcely thought he was so lost to every honorable feeling, as to make his columns the medium of a malicious and deliberate slander upon one who had not the opportunity of replying to his false assertions. This calumny is the more extraordinary, as Dr. Curtis, in replying to some editorial remarks of mine in the *Sentinel*, wherein I exposed some of the blunders and inaccuracies of his work on obstetrics, proposed, if I would copy said reply, that "we should shake hands and begin again;" calling me by the endearing appellation of "*Friend Mattson*." I was not to be deceived by such hypocrisy as this; for I knew that after having exposed his ignorance, which I did out of regard to the community, he felt no disposition to "shake hands," except through fear that his wretched pretensions would be made still more manifest. The sequel will abundantly show this. Curtis's reply, however, I announced for publication in the *Sentinel*, but my connexion with that paper ceased with the same number. John Coates, it appears, did not feel disposed to gratify Curtis, and so the article has never appeared. Shortly after this, I found the notable "lecturer on botany," notwithstanding his anxious desire to "*shake hands with his friend Mattson*," and forget all that had past, giving publicity to a wilful falsehood, intended to injure me in public estimation. But this is entirely characteristic of Dr. Curtis; he is humble and submissive, when his interest requires him to be so; but insolent, vicious, daring, and unprincipled, when he imagines that he can trample with impunity upon those whom his envy or malice would lead him to crush. He may impose upon the community for a still longer time, but his true character will ultimately become known.

With regard to my withdrawal from the *Sentinel*, I deem it my duty to make some further explanations. I was dissatisfied with the proprietor (Coates) because he identified himself to a certain extent with the mongrel Thomsonians. He gave sanction to the notorious Larrabee, who, according to the testimony of several

respectable gentlemen, had been in the habit of vending counterfeit medicines, thereby endangering the lives of the people, and bringing discredit upon the Thomsonian system. Coates published the advertisement of this mongrel, which I considered an imposition upon the community, and told him if he did not discontinue it, I could not consistently permit my name to appear as editor. While in New York, during the first or second week of December last, (if I remember correctly,) I addressed a letter to Coates upon this subject, advising him to withdraw said advertisement; and in a personal interview which I had with him in Philadelphia, more than a month subsequent to that time, I told him in the most explicit terms, I would not remain connected with the *Sentinel*, if it continued to identify itself either *directly* or *indirectly* with the enemies of the Thomsonian system. I had expressed myself in similar terms at least two months previous to this time, to several of my friends in Philadelphia, telling them that if the *Sentinel*, (which was regarded as the organ of the Thomsonians,) was to be the advocate of such men as Larrabee, and the "Baltimore Committee," that Mr. Coates must procure another editor.

During the first or second week in February last, I visited New York to hear the argument in the case of Dr. Frost, and was joined in a day or two by Mr. Coates. During our stay there, I necessarily inferred, from what I heard of Coates' conversation, that he was determined to sustain the mongrel Larrabee in his career; and under these circumstances, I resolved to have no further connexion with the *Sentinel*, beyond the number which was then upon the eve of publication. Accordingly, I made known this fact to said Coates in the presence of my friend Dr. Pierce of Philadelphia; and here the matter rested, until a few days subsequently, when Coates addressed me a letter, dated Philadelphia, saying that he had procured the services of a gentleman to superintend the editorial department of that number of the *Sentinel* and that I need not return to Philadelphia for that purpose. His principal object was, I presume, to prevent me from making a statement of the reasons why I had withdrawn my name from the *Sentinel* as editor. I addressed a letter to him, requesting the privilege of doing this, but it was not answered; and the only announcement which appeared in the *Sentinel*, was, that "a change had occurred in the editorial department." Coates was unwilling that his orthodoxy should be still further questioned by the public, and therefore objected to my furnishing a plain and honest statement of the facts for public consideration. But after all, Coates was compelled to omit Larrabee's advertisement, for he very soon discovered that the Thomsonians would abandon his paper, if he did not pursue a more upright course, and he was compelled to do *ultimately*, what he should have been honest enough to do at my *first suggestion*. I have been thus particular in detailing these circumstances, in order that the public may perceive with what utter depravity Dr. Curtis fabricated the report that I had been "dismissed from the *Sentinel*." I may have some additional explanation to make at a future time, should circumstances render it necessary.

The hostility of Dr. Curtis towards me, was partly owing to my having pointed out some of the blunders, as I have already stated, which occur in his work on obstetrics. This I did not do out of any captious spirit, nor by way of "revenge," as he seems

to imagine, but for the purpose of doing the community a service. It was a task which I executed with exceeding reluctance, but as an honest and independent journalist, I felt that I must perform my duty faithfully. The reader will pardon me, perhaps, for quoting from my own remarks upon this subject, which will be found in the *Botanic Sentinel*, p. 137, vol. iii. I stated that "Dr. Curtis appeared to be unacquainted with botanical names, although he styled himself a 'lecturer on botany'; and added the following remarks:

"You term skunk cabbage *Nymphæa odorata*, which is Dr. Thomson's *pond* or *water lily*, an entirely different plant. If this was an unintentional error, you have had ample time to correct it; but you have permitted your book to go forth to the world without any correction whatever. The '*Fraseria verticillata*' you call 'golden seal,' while the *Hydrastis canadensis*, the only plant to which Dr. Thomson ever applied the name of *golden seal*, is merely termed 'puccoon,' or 'yellow root.' The *F. verticillata* was never used by Dr. Thomson, and as it possesses objectional properties, it should not have been called golden seal, while the only golden seal which Dr. Thomson uses (the *Hydrastis canadensis*, as I before stated) has received an entirely different appellation. The *Aletris farinosa*, also, (an acrid, irritating plant,) you have given the name of '*unicorn*,' while the *Helonius dioica*, the only *unicorn* known to the Thomsonians, is introduced under the name of '*colic root*.'—We mention these inaccuracies, because, if your book is intended for *Thomsonians*, it is calculated to mislead their minds."

Such were some of my remarks on the subject of Dr. Curtis's work on obstetrics, and in his reply I find the following curious paragraph:

"At last, Dr. Mattson, you have pointed out several errors in our book on Obstetrics, for which we should certainly have thanked you, sincerely and heartily, had they not been made as it were by way of revenge. We remark that, when that number and several others went through the press, we had so much sickness in the family that we could scarcely look at them. For several months we did not take off our clothes at night for watchfulness of a suffering fellow creature that had been ruined by mercury. Sleep, sound and uninterrupted, had become an entire stranger to us. Much of it was both written and examined in the night while we were giving courses of medicine. When we had been relieved from this season of fatigue and watchfulness, we reviewed the book and found all the errors of which you speak and many more. But, as they did not substitute deadly doses of poison for good medicine, and as few had the Recorder in comparison to the number that had the Lectures, we thought it scarcely worth while to make a correction, though we can see quite as much difference between pond lily and skunk cabbage, as friend Mattson can between Dr. Curtis in days lang syne, and Dr. Curtis on the Louisville Convention!"

I thought, at the time of reading this explanation, that it was exceedingly paltry for one who pompously styled himself—"Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine, Lecturer on Anatomy, Physiology, Botany, and Chemistry, and Editor of the Thomsonian Recorder." Although Dr. Curtis may have watched "several months with a suffering fellow creature, without taking off his clothes, (and we give him credit for his humanity,) it was impossible that he could have overlooked so many important errors, had he ever been acquainted with the subject upon which he wrote. But what are the facts of the case? Were these errors made by Dr. Curtis in marking the proof, or did they occur in manuscript? If the latter, what apology has he to offer? for it will be remembered that his lectures were published as having been previously "delivered to the members of the Botanico-Medical School, at Columbus, Ohio." Were the members of the Botanico-Medical School compelled to listen to such glaring inaccuracies as these? But it will also be recollected that Dr. Curtis carried these very lectures to the United States' Thomsonian Convention, held at Nashville, Tenn. in 1836, where he

proposed that they should be published by subscription; and yet after all this, we are told that the errors which I pointed out, were overlooked in consequence of the doctor having been engaged *three months* in waiting upon a sick member of his family—and this was probably a year after the lectures had been written. The truth is, Dr. Curtis's explanation can only be regarded as an appeal to public sympathy, because he did not know how to extricate himself from the dilemma into which he had been thrust by his ignorance. But then the doctor does not seem to regard these errors as being of much importance, inasmuch as they "do not substitute deadly doses of poison for good medicine." This is admirable logic to be sure! and would, I presume, mantle the cheek of any other person than Dr. Curtis with shame. He would have the public believe that it is of but little consequence, whether an individual should unconsciously substitute a dose of *skunk cabbage* for *white pond lily*; the *Fraseria verticillata* (a cathartic medicine which Dr. Thomson never used), for the *golden seal*; or the *Aletris farinosa*, another harsh and irritating cathartic, for the invaluable *unicorn*. These, according to Dr. Curtis, are trifling matters, and "scarcely worthy a correction." Such recklessness as this is unpardonable, and should disgrace any one pretending to the slightest knowledge of remedial agents, much less a "lecturer on botany, and a professor of the theory and practice of medicine."

Dr. Curtis, in attempting to correct some typographical errors which occurred in my strictures, said that *nymphæa*, the generic name for *white pond lily*, should be spelled "*nymphæa*." This was ridiculous enough, especially as he was correcting, as he supposed, an error of mine; but the dunce has since looked into a latin dictionary, or some approved work on botany, for in a late number of the Recorder, in which he has attempted a description of the *pond lily*, he has given the generic name *correctly*. Unfortunately, however, he was not so accurate in the description of its properties. He speaks of it as merely "*stimulant and deobstruent*," when every body knows, who has tasted the article, that it is not stimulant in the least. This is another proof that Curtis is ignorant of the plants upon which he has attempted to "*lecture*." By the way, instead of having given a plain and familiar description of the *pond lily*, adapted to ordinary comprehension, he has dovetailed together a parcel of obscure botanical phrases, gleaned from various authors, which are certainly unintelligible to the people generally, even though Dr. Curtis should understand them himself. The following portion of his description of the *Nymphæa odorata*, will verify the truth of my remark:

"Genus NYMPHÆA—Calyx 4 to 7 leaved, corolla many petaled in several rows, equaling the calyx in length, attached to the germ beneath the stamens; Stigma a broad disk marked with radiated lines; pericarp berrylike, many celled, many seeded. Natural order, Nymphiaceæ."

This is Greek to the common reader, and is no doubt Greek to the doctor himself. The description, however, is in perfect harmony with the wood cut illustration, which has long ago been worn out in Rafinesque's Botany, and Howard's Improved System.

By the way, it will probably be recollected that Dr. Curtis charged me with a want of zeal in not attending the 1836 convention. He took credit to himself for having attended "upon his own book," as he expressed it. My reply was, that he might well have done this, for "he made the Convention an instru-

ment to give popularity to his Lectures on Midwifery." To this, Dr. Curtis makes the following evasive reply:

"We do not now recollect whether we thought about any book except the Discussions which we carried, and which Dr. Thomson had encouraged us to publish, by subscribing for 23 copies at the Richmond or 4th Convention. Not a line of the Extra was printed, nor did we start a resolution concerning it. Those that were passed, grew out of a lecture we delivered on the subject, in obedience to the invitation of the Convention."

It will be recollected, however, that the Richmond or 4th Convention, was not the Nashville or 5th Convention, at which Dr. Curtis *did* propose to publish his lectures by subscription. In proof of this, I copy the following item from the minutes of said Convention, which appeared originally in the *Recorder*:

"Wednesday, Oct. 19—10 o'clock. Convention met. Dr. Curtis delivered a lecture on obstetrics, after which, he proposed to publish by subscription, the substance of his lectures to the students of the Botanico-Medical School at Columbus on the subject."

I copy this paragraph merely to exhibit the character of Dr. Curtis in its true light, that the public may no longer be deceived by his cunning and duplicity.

The malicious announcement of Curtis, that I had been discharged from the *Sentinel*, was copied by *John A. Brown* into the *Botanic Advertiser*, a paper which he publishes at Providence, R.I. I allude to this, merely to show the unanimity of feeling which subsists between Dr. Curtis and his mongrel brethren. As to Brown, however, he is too filthy for notice. Since he forfeited the pledge which he so solemnly entered into at the Providence Convention, he can only be regarded by every decent or honest man with disgust, although Dr. Curtis may take him by the hand and receive him into fellowship. He is too grossly ignorant himself to write a sentence grammatically, and employs a sort of penny-a-liner to prepare his various lucubrations. This fellow is more enlightened than his master, although he possesses all his vulgarity; and conducted himself with so much rudeness and impropriety before one of the committees appointed by the late Providence Convention, that he was ordered to quit the room.

Dr. Curtis is in the habit of accusing those who question his "infallibility," of indulging in "personal bickerings." So far as I am implicated in this charge, I have only to say, that when ignorance requires to be exposed, or hypocrisy unmasked I shall utter my sentiments without fear or favor. I entertain no personal enmity towards Dr. C., and only regret he is not a better Thomsonian. With regard to my having indulged in "personal bickerings," reference need only be had to the *Botanic Sentinel*, to put this matter in its proper light. I passed some strictures upon Dr. Curtis's remarks in relation to the Louisville Convention, because I doubted, for the first time in my life, his fidelity to the Thomsonian cause; I pointed out some of the errors of his work on obstetrics, because I considered it a duty which I owed to the community; I have warned the public against the purchase of secret nostrums and counterfeit medicines, because, by these impositions, many a valuable life has been sacrificed; I have also cautioned the public against the duplicity of those who *assume* to be Thomsonians, in order that they may pursue their career of infamy and fraud with the greater success. "Personal bickerings" such as these, I shall probably indulge in so long as there is a designing or hypocritical knave in the Thomsonian ranks "unwhipped of justice."

A word more and I have done. During my editorship of the *Botanic Sentinel*, I announced a *Botany*

and *Materia Medica* for publication. John Coates, the proprietor of the *Sentinel*, has lately published the following card in relation to said work:

"Thomsonian Botany and Materia Medica.—This work was promised some time since—and as it is not known by the subscriber when it will be ready for delivery, he requests that no further remittances will be made to him for it. Those who have made remittances to me for the Botany, shall either receive the work or their money will be returned.

JOHN COATES, Jr."

Coates never applied to me for information upon this subject, or he would have received it. I will add, however, that the Botany will not be issued as was proposed. It is in contemplation to publish it in a more enlarged and improved form. The public will be duly notified upon this subject. It is presumed that John Coates either has or will refund the money which he has received for the Botany. Should, however, he refuse to do this upon application of the subscribers, they are requested to inform me of the same, directed to the care of the editor of the *Thomsonian Manual*, Boston. Upon the reception of such letters, they will be promptly attended to, and further explanations will be made.

Dr. Holcombe of Tuscaloosa, Ala., is informed that \$3 has been mailed to his address. Dr. Nichols of Enfield, Ct., and Dr. Morgridge of New Bedford, will each receive \$2 upon application to Dr. J. W. Chapman, Dr. Thomson's junior general agent, 40, Salem-street, Boston. Should there be any other gentleman who has paid me money, *personally*, for the Botany, he will have the kindness to address a letter as above, and it will receive prompt attention.

Very respectfully, M. MATTSO.

New York, April 11, 1838.

ALLSPICE.—Allspice is the dried berry of a species of myrtle found in the West Indies, and is also known by the name of *Pimento*. Those who have seen it in June or July, describe it as a most beautiful and fragrant tree. Its height is about twenty feet; the leaves are oval, and about four inches long, of a deep, shining green color, with numerous branches of white flowers. It attracts universal notice, by its branches on every side, and its deep green leaves, intermixed with white flowers, richly aromatic. They grow in great abundance in many parts of the island of Jamaica, but they are not propagated without much care and difficulty. The berries are usually in a fit state for gathering in the month of September, and soon after the flowers have fallen off. They are then fully grown, though not entirely ripe, and are of the size of a pepper-corn. They are gathered by hand, and an active man will pick seventy pounds in a single day. The process of drying requires great care, and all moisture must be excluded; and when dry, they lose the green color and become of a reddish brown. Pimento is thought by some to resemble in flavor a compound of cinnamon, nutmegs and cloves, whence it has the name of *All-spice*. It is employed in cooking, and sometimes in medicine, as an aromatic, and forms the chief part of certain distilled spirits, and an essential oil.

Pimenta is a stimulant and tonic. It is useful as an adjunct to bitters in dyspepsia attended with much flatulence, and in hysterical affections. The watery infusion of it, sweetened, and with the addition of a little milk, is very readily taken by children; and is an excellent cordial in measles, scarlatina, small-pox and the other exanthemata, or eruptive affections.

THE SPIDER'S WEB.

It will be seen by the following article, that there is some probability that spider's webs will yet "loom up" again as an important article in the "regular" *materia medica*. The article probably owes its existence to some medical journal, and is now traveling the rounds of the newspapers as an item of important knowledge.

THE SPIDER'S WEB.—The web of the black spider has received commendation from many respectable sources, as a sedative agent capable of calming, with peculiar ease and certainty, morbid excitability of the cerebral and nervous system. It was lately administered in the case of an intelligent young man, who, after consuming, by his own report, three quarts of brandy in thirty six hours, fell into a state of temulent excitation, so extensive that he was incapable of keeping a recumbent or even a sitting posture for more than a minute, but paced his chamber with a ceaseless step for two days and nights. He was not delirious—on the contrary his conversation was rational though hurried and vehement. But he was so far under the influence of spectral hallucination, that if he closed his eyes for a moment, day or night, he was instantly visited by a host of phantoms of frightful aspect; hence chiefly his aversion to lie down, or make any voluntary effort to sleep. This patient took opium with camphor, and black drop, at short intervals, and in full doses, until the quantum of opiate approached the utmost limit of probable safe administration, without even partial relief of constitutionall irritation, or any apparent proneness to sleep. The temulent excitement kept unabated for 24 hours, the second night passed in constant vigilance, locomotion, and mental excitement, and it seemed probable that excitation so intense protracted, and unremitting, must soon lapse into delirium or convulsions. At this time, the morning of the third day (the second of my attendance) he began the use of the fresh web in pills of 5 grains every hour. Its effect was prompt and unequivocal. The patient spoke emphatically, both the first and second day, of the soothing influence produced by the pills. He was not, at the time informed of their composition.

SLEEP.—The celebrated German philosopher Kant, well observes, "Take from man hope and sleep, and you will make him the most wretched being upon earth." Sleep is intended to refresh the body and restore the mental faculties when exhausted by the fatigues of labor or mental exertion. It is impossible to specify the quantity of rest necessary for this purpose,—as too little sleep weakens the nervous system, and occasions diseases; while too much renders the mind dull, the body bloated and phlegmatic. We have many extraordinary examples of men, who with a few hours of sleep have lived to a great age in the enjoyment of health. Yet seven or eight hours, at least, in the four-and-twenty, seem to be requisite for the generality of mankind. Children require more sleep than grown persons, and the sick and convalescent more than the healthy. "Night is the time for rest," and the proper season for sleep, and few habits are more injurious than late hours.

A GHOST STORY.

The following is an extract from a Lecture on Popular Delusions delivered before the young People's Institute, Providence.

A gentleman of my acquaintance, in other respects a very intelligent person, was a firm believer in ghosts. He had a brother who resided in Boston, as head clerk in a mercantile establishment in that city. The gentleman related to me the following narrative, as a means of removing my scepticism on the subject.

"My brother," said he, "was seized with a disorder in his head. At night he retired to bed, at an early hour, and laying the books and papers of which he had charge, on a table at the side of his bed, which was his usual practice, disposed himself for slumber, after having extinguished his light. In a few minutes he was astonished to see his room brilliantly illuminated; and, on looking up, beheld a lady approaching him, with a bright burning lamp in her hand. His first impulse was that of terror—his next, the thought that some one in disguise, had entered for the purpose of robbery; and he involuntarily reached forth his hand, to protect his employer's property on the table. The apparition however, approached the bedside, looking the young man steadily in the face for a short time, then vanished, and left him again in total darkness.

"The second and third nights, the same vision was repeated. The young man became restless and melancholy—immediately returned home to his brother's house—continued to grow more unwell—was finally confined to his bed by a raging fever—and in defiance of medical skill, was finally attacked with delirium—and, in the course of a few weeks, died a raving maniac."

This is one of the most striking, and best authenticated cases which I have ever read or heard. My friend religiously believed the vision a warning to his brother of his disease and death. Not so with me. The first item in the narrative was an ample key to the entire mystery. The disorder in the head commenced first—the brain was affected—the mind was diseased—imagination, perhaps in the incipient stage of a confused slumber, created the vision—the impression made on the mind caused its repetition, and which would probably have continued but for change of scene; the conviction of reality produced melancholy, and increased the malady; and finally, what was supposed a warning, but which was in fact the effect of disease, doubtless proved one cause of accelerating the prostration of reason.

THE CRITERION.—There is one criterion which physicians seem to have overlooked; that when their practice aggravates disease or hastens death, they may be sure it is wrong. And yet, this they seem never to have considered with due attention,—ascribing to the disease, what they ought to attribute to the *remedy*.

A child at Pompton Plains, N. J., two years old, a few days since, coughed up a pewter button, which had been lodged in the larynx (it was supposed) three months before.

AN ACCOUNT OF A WOMAN WHO LIVED SIX DAYS UNDER THE SNOW.—Joanna Crippen, Chardstock, in Dorset, being a spinner of worsted, was going home on the 24th of January, with some work; snow falling abundantly, and lying deep on the ground, she was forced to lie down under a bridge, having lost one of her shoes; and her clothes, which were very mean, were torn by the brambles almost off her back—in which place she lay from Monday evening about six o'clock, until the Sunday following, about four in the afternoon, and then was discovered by some of our neighbors, who went out with poles, shovels, &c. to search for her, and after some time spent in it, at last found her buried in four feet deep of snow. One of the men thrusting at her with his pole, found she was there and alive. She immediately spoke, and begged he would not push her too hard, for she was almost naked, and desired that some of the women would come to her and take her out, which was accordingly done; when they found her, without stockings and shoes, and an old white about her shoulders, with a large hole in it, which she had ate through, drinking the snow which melted on her to quench her thirst. She had a mortification of one of her great toes, but she is now very hearty, and entirely recovered.—She was very sensible at the first taking her out, and still continued so; and she knew every body perfectly well. And yet she had taken no manner of food all the time of her being in the snow.

GRIEF—may be considered as the most destructive of all the passions. When intense, it injures all the functions of the body, spoils the digestion, suppresses the appetite; the spirits are depressed, the nerves untuned, and the humors, for want of chyle, vitiated. Many blessed with even the most robust constitutions, have become the untimely victims of unrestrained grief!

☞ We understand that the business of the "mongrels," in "the region round about," is getting to be rather small. This indicates a healthy condition of things, and we hope "Providence" will continue thus to order it.

THE BITING PAIN.

(From the Spanish.)

One night a sharp rheumatic pain
Pinched an old lady 'till she roared again;
At last, quite frantic,
She called in a physician of great name,
Who asked with phrase pedantic
(While his prescription writing)
How it came on, and whether it was biting?
For shame!
Replied the dame,
Biting, indeed!—It came on with the First,
I've eaten nothing for these two days past!

NEW AGENT FOR THE MANUAL.

Abner Leitch, Paris, Edgar county, Illinois.

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LECTURE V.—On Regular practice in fever—contrary to medical philosophy—to the real nature of fever—in the principles of their own theory—bleeding in cold stage of intermittents.

LECTURE VI.—On Thomsonian practice in fever—emetics—vapor bath—stimulants.

LECTURE VII.—On Regular theory of inflammation—errors in regard to causes—in regard to phenomena.

LECTURE VIII.—On Thomsonian theory of inflammation—remedial nature—habits of body most liable to it—fearful character in debilitated habits—tissues subject to the worst forms—inflammation of serous membranes—identity of fever and inflammation—natural termination—tendency to point outwardly.

LECTURE IX.—On Regular practice in inflammation—effects of bleeding—use of the blood—purgatives—blisters—emetics in nauseating doses—vomiting.

LECTURE X.—On Thomsonian practice in inflammation—stimulants indicated by true pathology—necessary even in acute inflammation—character of stimulants to be employed—adapted to inflammation of serous membranes—effects of the vapor bath on the minute arteries—on the blood—emetics.

☞ These Lectures will be issued in an extra to the Philadelphia Botanic Sentinel, in numbers of 36 pages each. It will probably take five numbers to complete the work. Terms for the whole, Fifty Cents, invariably in advance, without which none will be sent. The agents of the Sentinel will please act for the lectures. Communications containing less than five dollars, must be POST PAID to receive attention.

Philadelphia, March 1, 1838.

J. COATES, Jr., Publisher.

THEORY OF SOUND.—We have been much interested by an article in a late number of the Knickerbocker, from the pen of Mr. George F. Hopkins, of this city, upon electricity, looming, and the transmission of sound through the air. In relation to the latter, the writer mentions that he heard the sound of voices and the crowing of a cock for several miles over water, and, on one occasion, from the Battery, the distinct tones of a conch shell blown on Staten Island! The editors also mention a corroborative instance, in which an observant, intelligent gentleman of this city, heard the sound of human voices, and the letting down of "bars" to turn cattle into a pasture enclosure, over Long Island Sound, where it is frozen ten to twelve miles in width. The causes of this phenomena are attributed to a suspension of the power of evaporation, by which there remains little resistance to the movement of sound, the vapor having ascended to the higher regions, leaving the lower portion of the atmosphere completely disburdened; and the circumstance that it soon returns to the earth in showers, is cited as strong proof of the correctness of the position.—[New York Star.

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